NEW LONE WOLF & CUB

新子連れ狼

KAZUO KOIKE
HIDEKI MORI

4

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新子連れ狼

4

STORY
KAZUO KOIKE

ART
HIDEKI MORI

ORIGINAL
ART CONCEPT
GOSEKI KOJIMA

TRANSLATION
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LETTERING
STUDIO CUTIE

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NEW LONE WOLF AND CUB VOLUME 4

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新・子連れ狼

LONE WOLF

原作・小池一夫
作画・森 秀樹
作画原案・小島剛夕

A NOTE TO READERS

NEW LONE WOLF AND CUB is a carefully researched re-creation of Edo-period Japan. To preserve the flavor of the work, we have chosen to retain terms of the period that have no direct equivalents in English. Japanese is written in a mix of Chinese ideograms and a syllabic writing system, resulting in numerous words with multiple meanings. In the glossary, you may encounter these words. A Japanese reader seeing the different ideograms would know instantly which meaning is intended, but these synonyms can cause confusion when Japanese is spelled out in our alphabet.

Some characters in this series come from the Satsuma region of Japan, an area with its own distinctive dialect. Some common words in this dialect have been left untranslated to better give the impression of this dialect being spoken. These terms are defined in the glossary. Other characters in the story come from places or cultural strata (country folk, gangsters) for which there is no direct translation to identify these characteristics. Here they are given corresponding Americanized speech patterns to highlight these traits.

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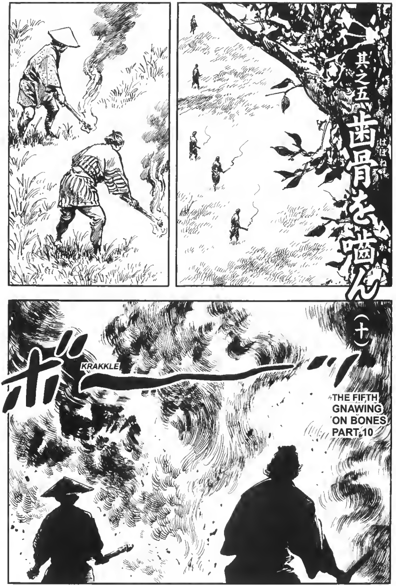
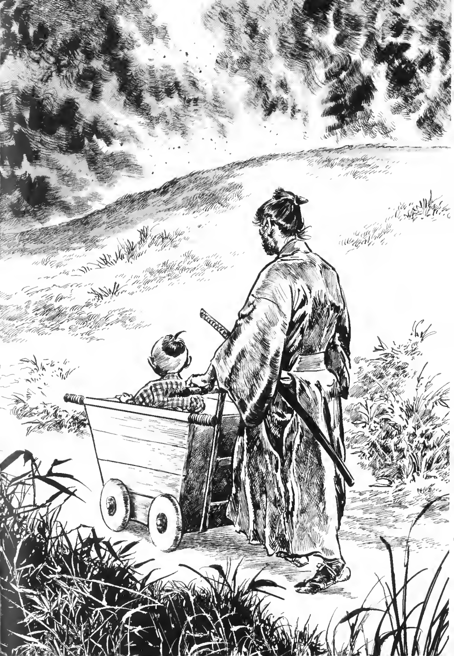
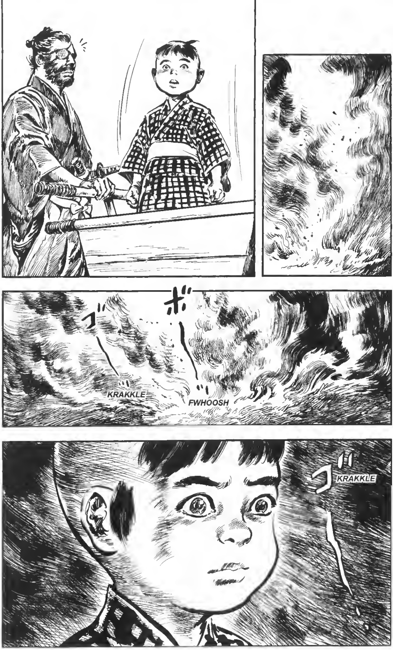


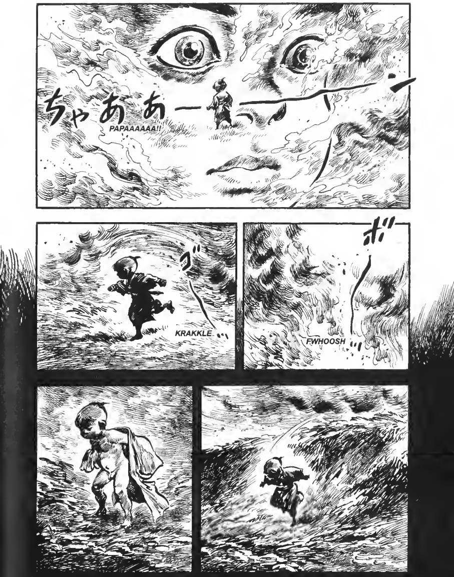
其之五 歯骨を噛ん（十）

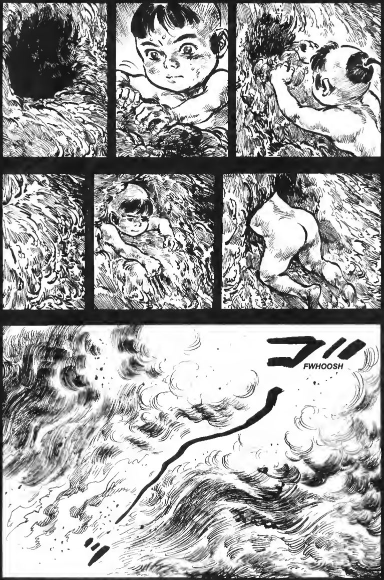
THE FIFTH GNAWING ON BONES PART 10

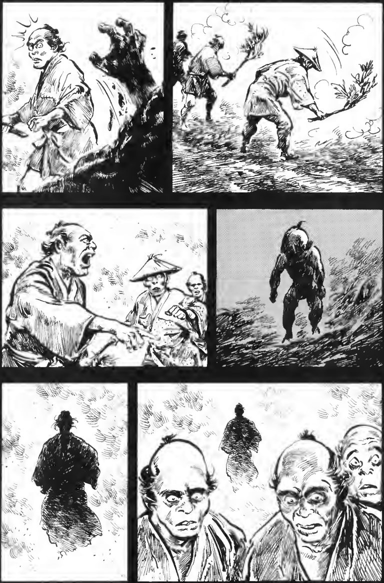
ボーーーッ
KRAKKLE

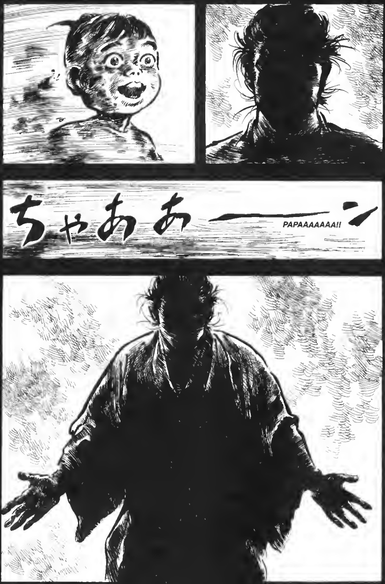


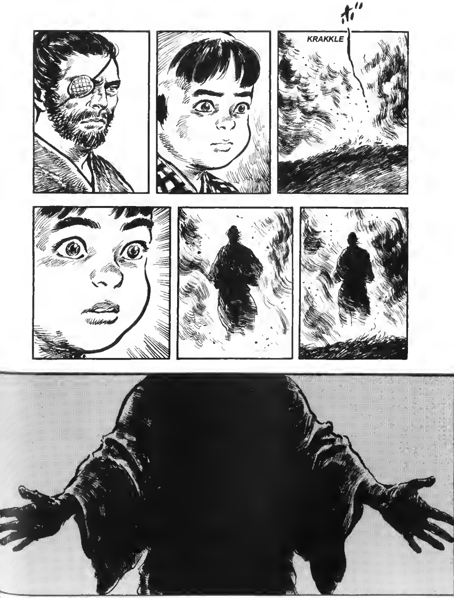

ボ
FWHOOSH
ゴ
KRAKKLE
ゴ
KRAKKLE

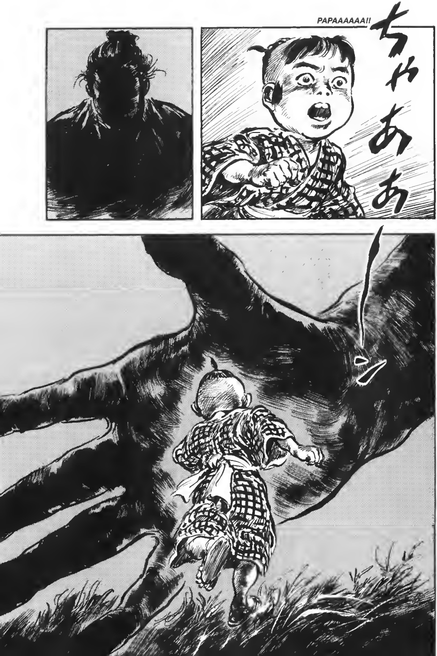

ちゃああー
PAPAAAAAA!!
ゴ
KRAKKLE
ボ
FWHOOSH

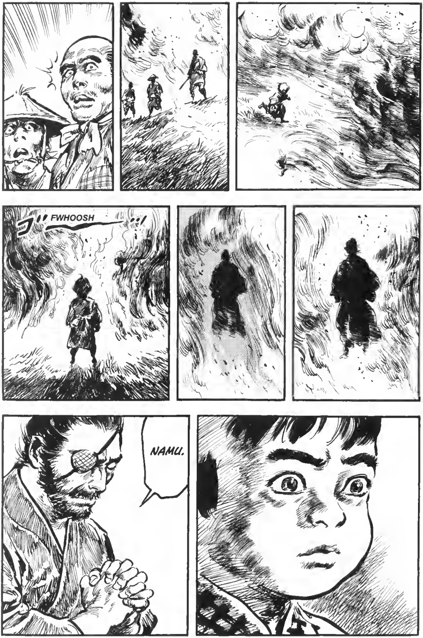

FWHOOSH

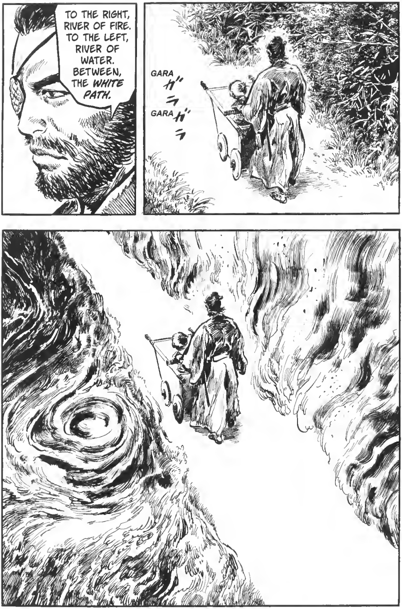


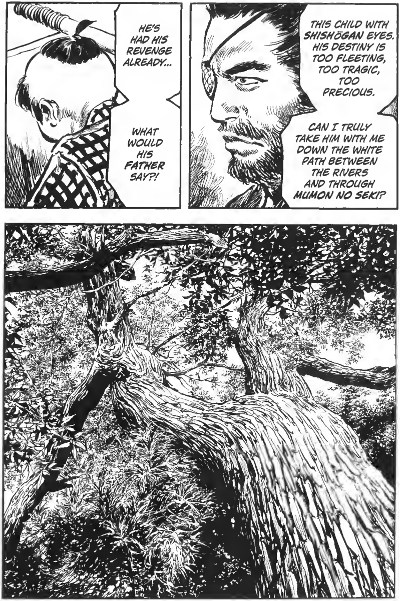

ちゃああーン
PAPAAAAAAA!!

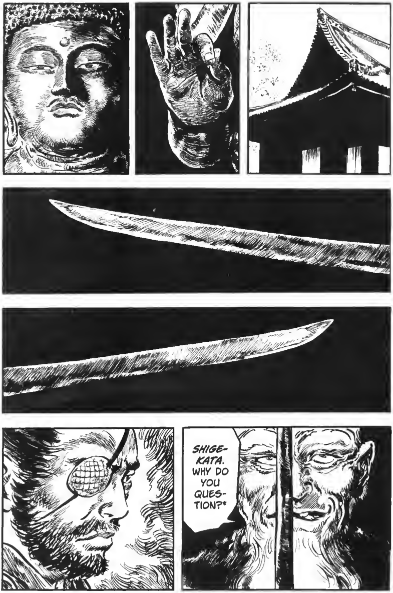

ボ
KRAKKLE


PAPAAAAAA!!
ちゃあああーッ

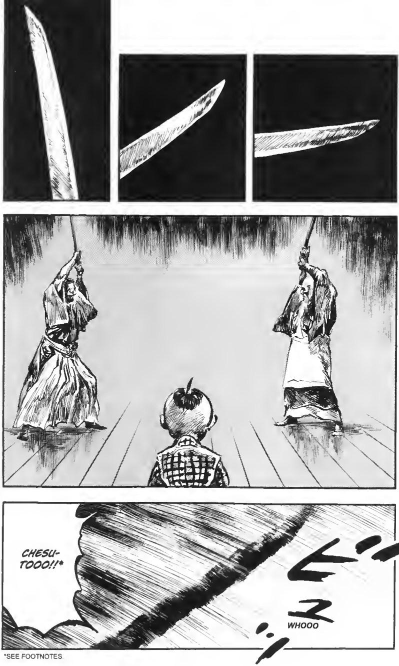

FWHOOSH
NAMU.


TO THE RIGHT, RIVER OF FIRE. TO THE LEFT, RIVER OF WATER. BETWEEN, THE *WHITE PATH.*
GARA ガラ
GARA ガラ

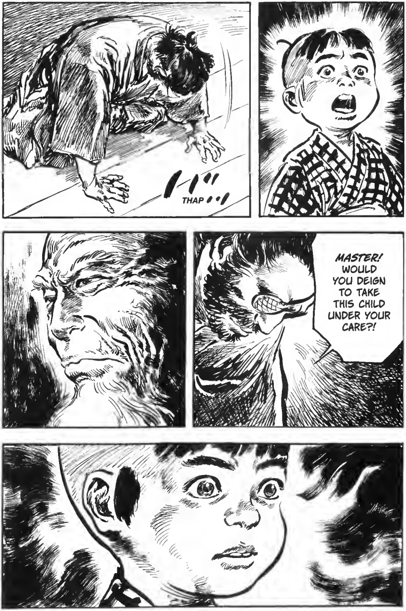

HE'S HAD HIS REVENGE ALREADY...
WHAT WOULD HIS FATHER SAY?!
THIS CHILD WITH SHISHŌGAN EYES. HIS DESTINY IS TOO FLEETING, TOO TRAGIC, TOO PRECIOUS.
CAN I TRULY TAKE HIM WITH ME DOWN THE WHITE PATH BETWEEN THE RIVERS AND THROUGH MUMON NO SEKI?


SHIGEKATA. WHY DO YOU QUESTION?*

*SEE FOOTNOTES.


CHESU-TOOO!!*
WHOOO

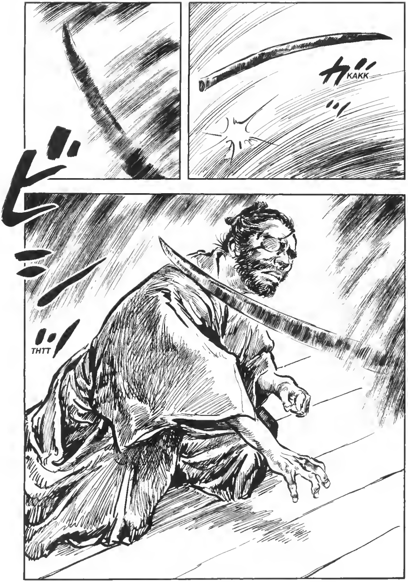
*SEE FOOTNOTES.

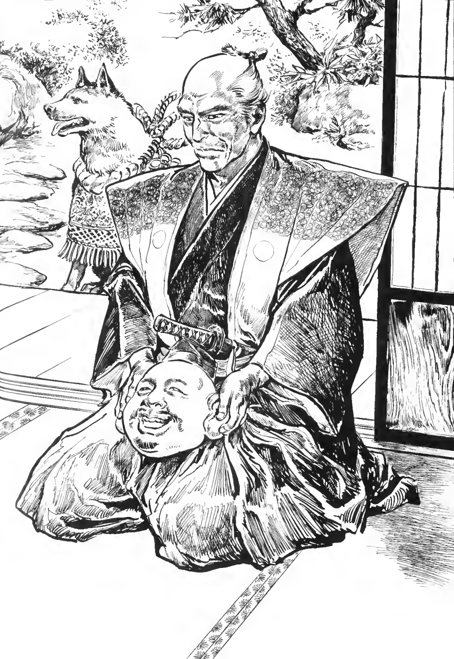

THAP
MASTER! WOULD YOU DEIGN TO TAKE THIS CHILD UNDER YOUR CARE?!

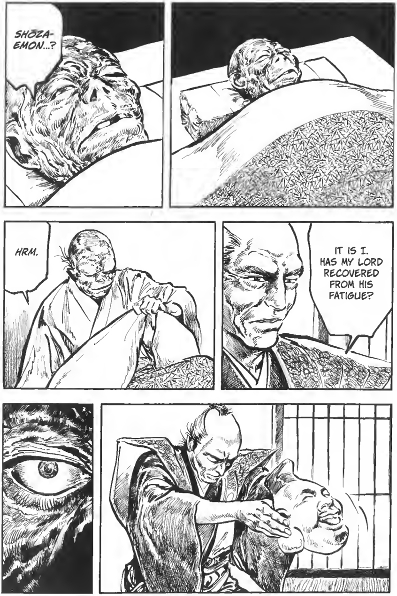
其之五

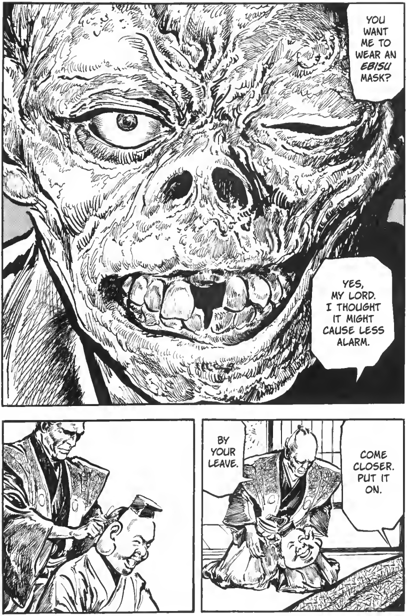
歯骨を噛ん（十一）

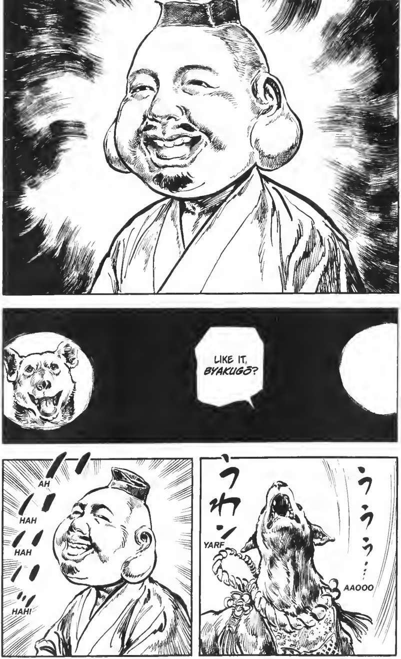
THE FIFTH GNAWING ON BONES PART 11

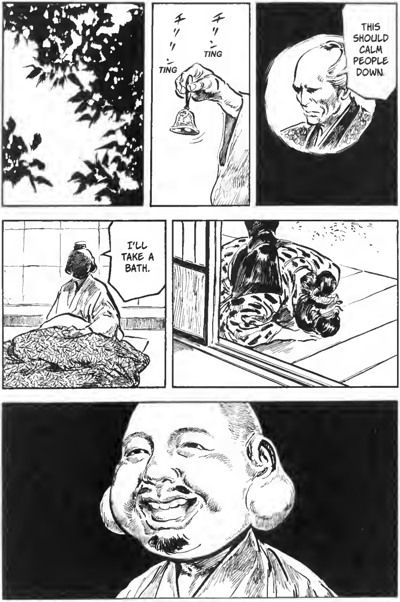

カッ KAKK
ッ
ビシッ
THTT

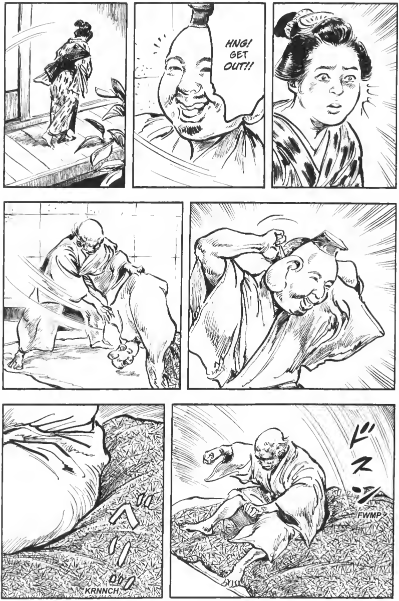


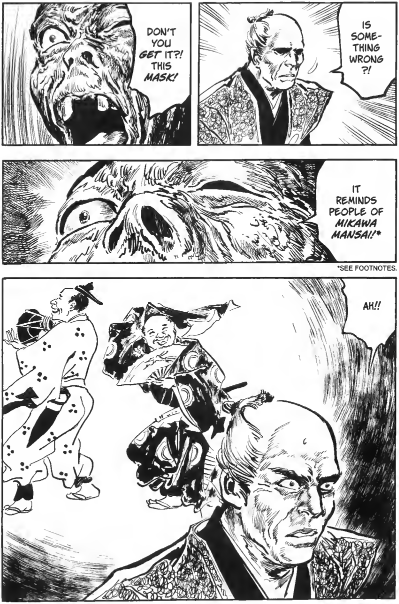

SHŌZA-EMON...?
HRM.
IT IS I. HAS MY LORD RECOVERED FROM HIS FATIGUE?


YOU WANT ME TO WEAR AN *EBISU* MASK?
YES, MY LORD. I THOUGHT IT MIGHT CAUSE LESS ALARM.
COME CLOSER. PUT IT ON.
BY YOUR LEAVE.

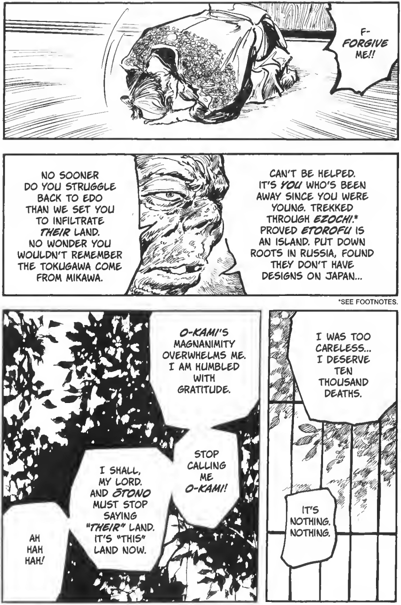

LIKE IT, *BYAKUGŌ?*
AH
HAH
HAH
HAH!
うわン
YARF
ううう…
AAOOO


チリン
TING
チリン
TING
THIS SHOULD CALM PEOPLE DOWN
I'LL TAKE A BATH.

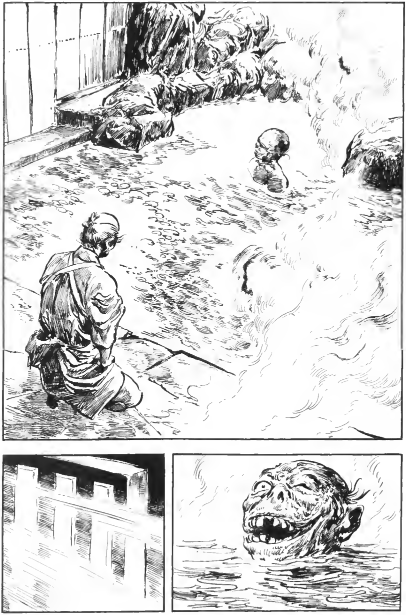

HNG! GET OUT!!
KRNNCH
ドスン
FWMP

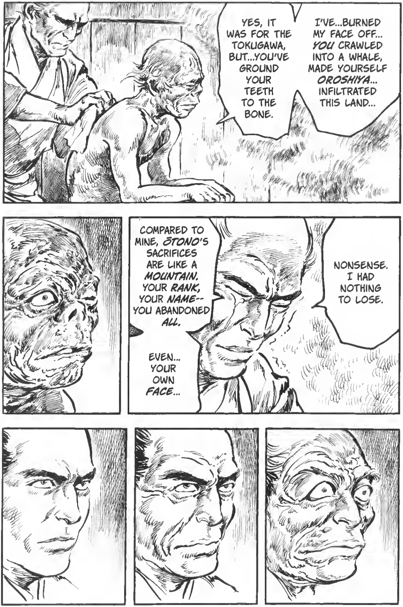

DON'T YOU GET IT?! THIS MASK!
IS SOMETHING WRONG?!
IT REMINDS PEOPLE OF MIKAWA MANSAI!*
AH!!

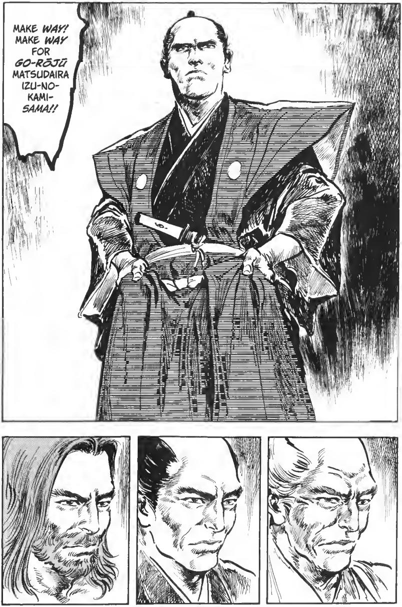
*SEE FOOTNOTES.

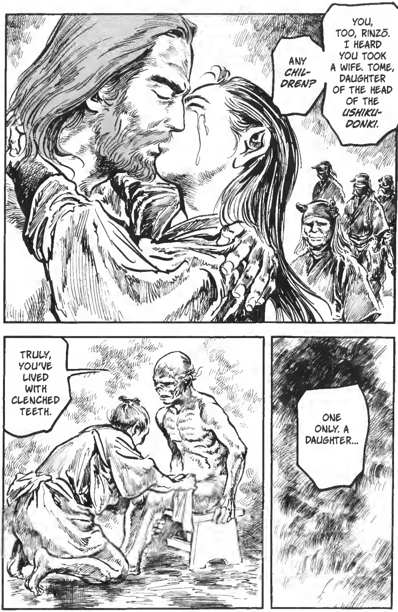

F-
FORGIVE
ME!!
CAN'T BE HELPED. IT'S *YOU* WHO'S BEEN AWAY SINCE YOU WERE YOUNG. TREKKED THROUGH *EZOCHI!** PROVED *ETOROFU* IS AN ISLAND. PUT DOWN ROOTS IN RUSSIA, FOUND THEY DON'T HAVE DESIGNS ON JAPAN...
NO SOONER DO YOU STRUGGLE BACK TO EDO THAN WE SET YOU TO INFILTRATE *THEIR* LAND. NO WONDER YOU WOULDN'T REMEMBER THE TOKUGAWA COME FROM MIKAWA.
I WAS TOO CARELESS... I DESERVE TEN THOUSAND DEATHS.
IT'S NOTHING. NOTHING.
O-KAMI'S MAGNANIMITY OVERWHELMS ME. I AM HUMBLED WITH GRATITUDE.
STOP CALLING ME *O-KAMI!*
I SHALL, MY LORD. AND *ŌTONO* MUST STOP SAYING *"THEIR"* LAND. IT'S "THIS" LAND NOW.
AH HAH HAH!

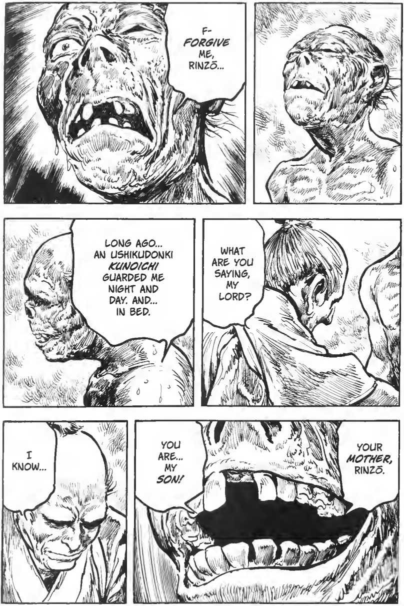
*SEE FOOTNOTES.

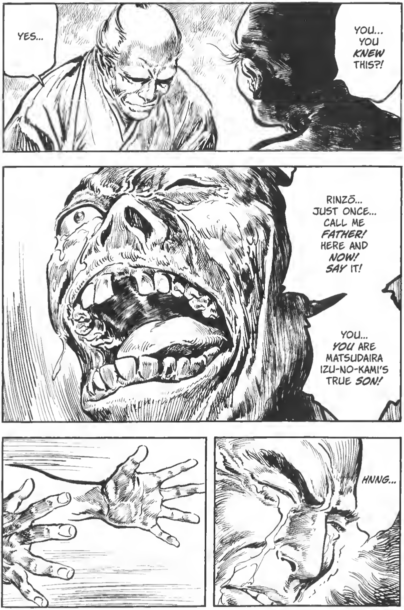


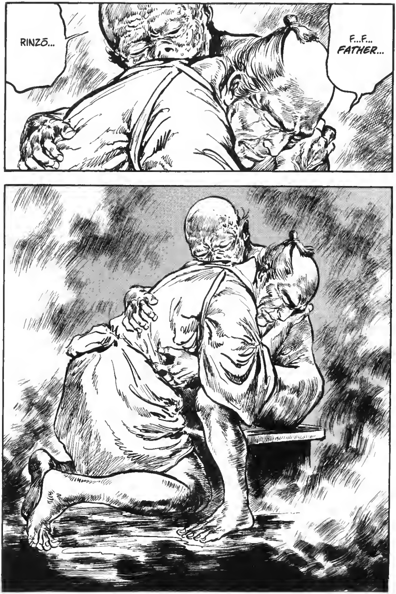

YES, IT WAS FOR THE TOKUGAWA, BUT...YOU'VE GROUND YOUR TEETH TO THE BONE.
I'VE...BURNED MY FACE OFF... *YOU* CRAWLED INTO A WHALE, MADE YOURSELF *OROSHIYA*... INFILTRATED THIS LAND...
COMPARED TO MINE, *ŌTONO*'S SACRIFICES ARE LIKE A *MOUNTAIN.* YOUR *RANK,* YOUR *NAME*-- YOU ABANDONED *ALL.*
EVEN... YOUR OWN *FACE*...
NONSENSE. I HAD NOTHING TO LOSE.


MAKE WAY! MAKE WAY FOR GO-RŌJŪ MATSUDAIRA IZU-NO-KAMI-SAMA!!


YOU, TOO, RINZŌ. I HEARD YOU TOOK A WIFE. TOME, DAUGHTER OF THE HEAD OF THE *USHIKU-DONKI.*
ANY *CHILDREN?*
ONE ONLY. A DAUGHTER...
TRULY, YOU'VE LIVED WITH CLENCHED TEETH.


F-*FORGIVE* ME, RINZŌ...
LONG AGO... AN USHIKUDONKI *KUNOICHI* GUARDED ME NIGHT AND DAY. AND... IN BED.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, MY LORD?
I KNOW...
YOU ARE... MY *SON!*
YOUR *MOTHER,* RINZŌ.

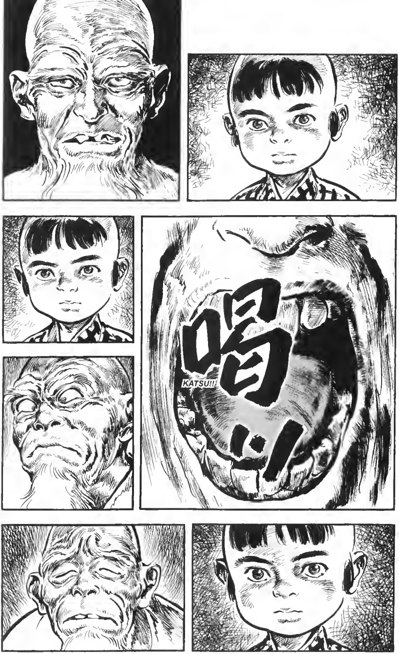

YES...
YOU... YOU *KNEW* THIS?!
RINZŌ... JUST ONCE... CALL ME *FATHER!* HERE AND *NOW!* *SAY* IT!
YOU... *YOU* ARE MATSUDAIRA IZU-NO-KAMI'S TRUE *SON!*
HNNG...

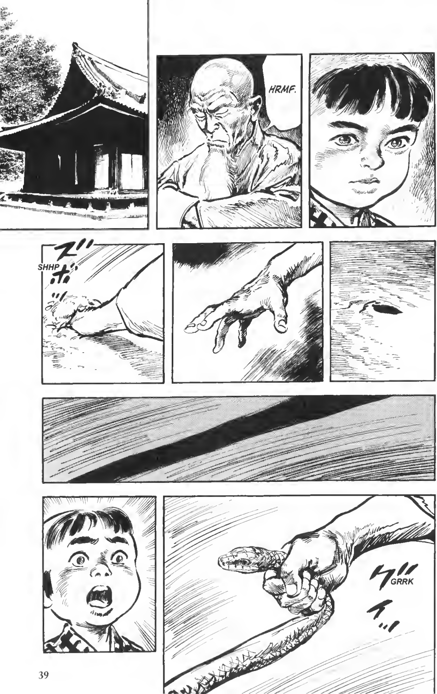

RINZŌ...
F...F... *FATHER...*

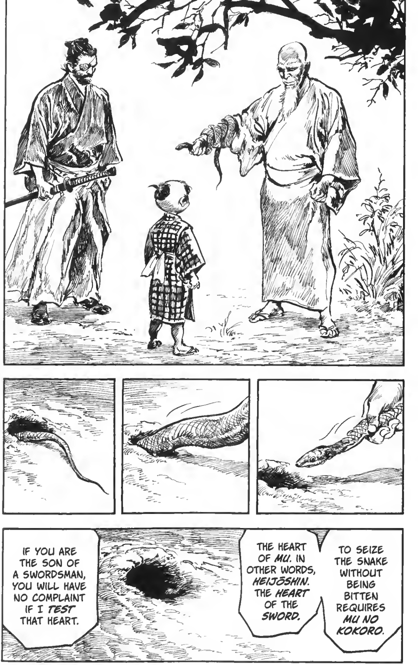
其之五

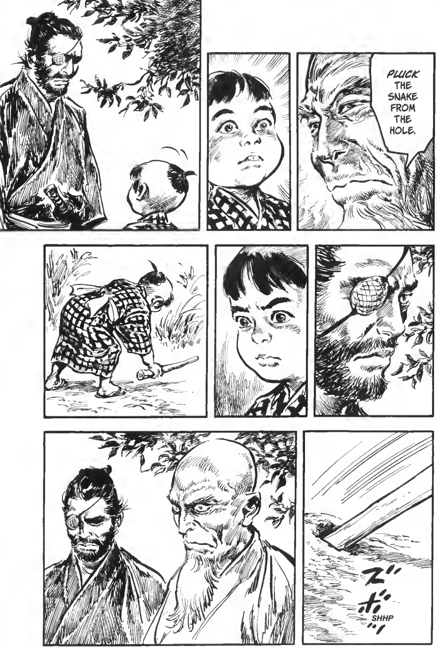
歯骨を噛ん（十二）

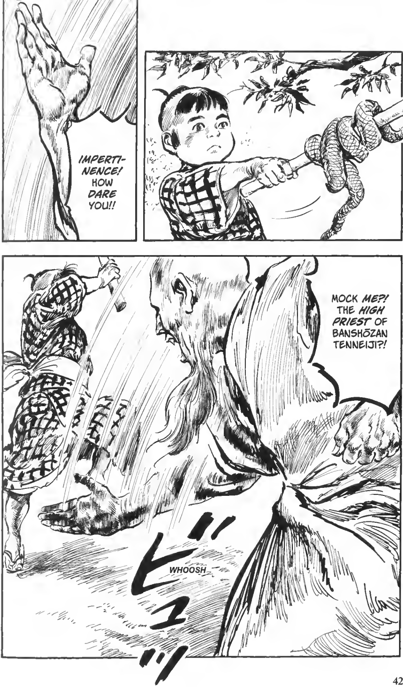
THE FIFTH
GNAWING ON BONES
PART 12

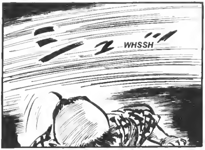

喝!!
KATSU!!

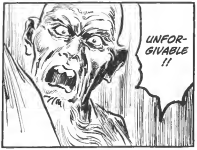

HRMF.
ズボッ
SHHP
グイッ
GRRK

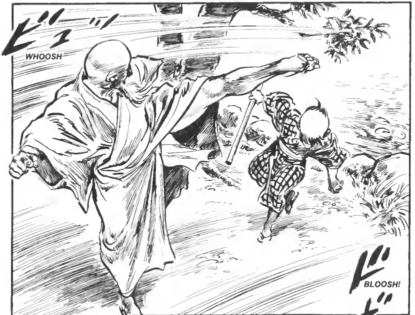

TO SEIZE THE SNAKE WITHOUT BEING BITTEN REQUIRES *MU NO KOKORO*.
THE HEART OF *MU*. IN OTHER WORDS, *HEIJŌSHIN*. THE *HEART* OF THE *SWORD*.
IF YOU ARE THE SON OF A SWORDSMAN, YOU WILL HAVE NO COMPLAINT IF I *TEST* THAT HEART.

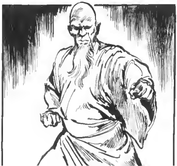

PLUCK THE SNAKE FROM THE HOLE.
ズ
ボ
SHHP

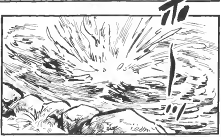

IMPERTINENCE! HOW DARE YOU!!
MOCK ME?! THE HIGH PRIEST OF BANSHŌZAN TENNEIJI?!
ビュッ
WHOOSH

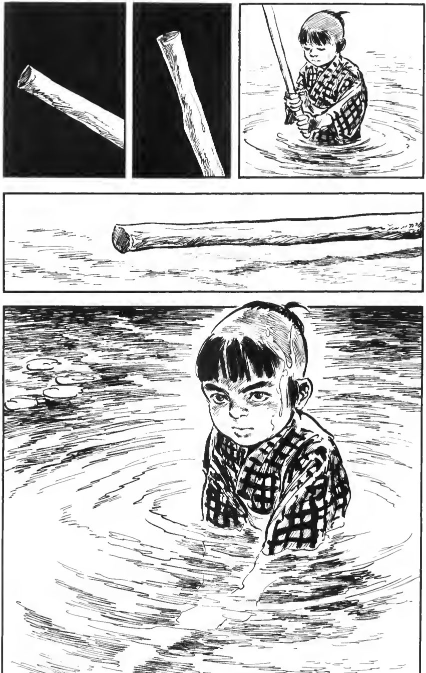

ジュッ
WHSSH

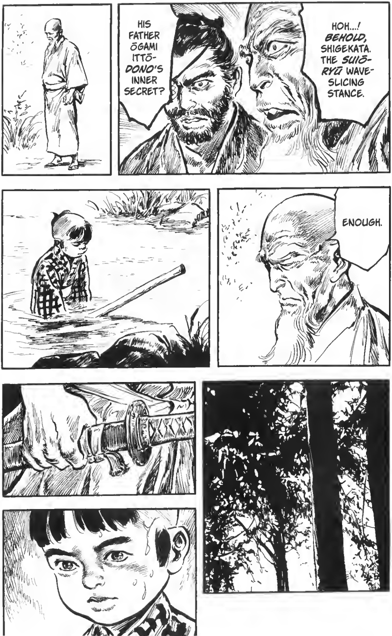

UNFORGIVABLE !!

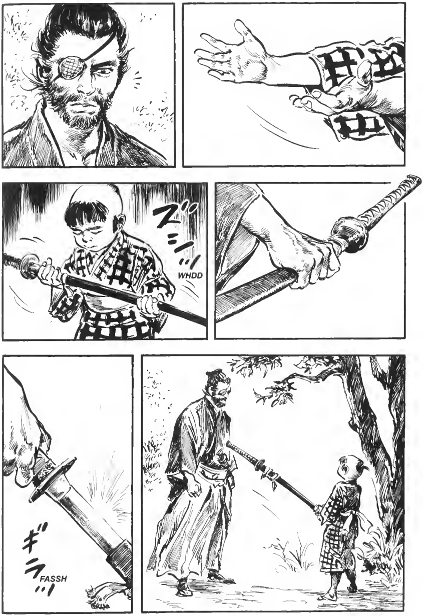

ビュッ
WHOOSH
ドッ
BLOOSH!

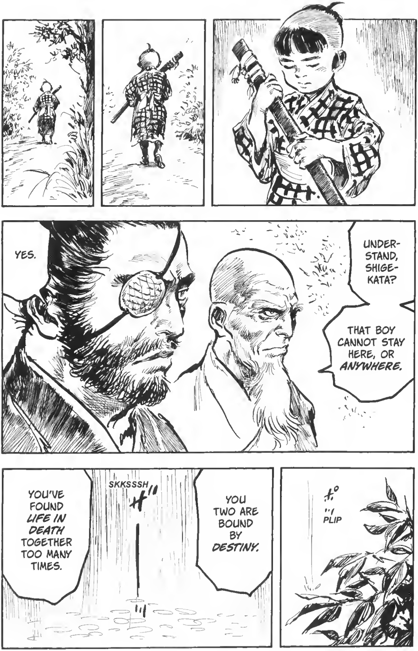


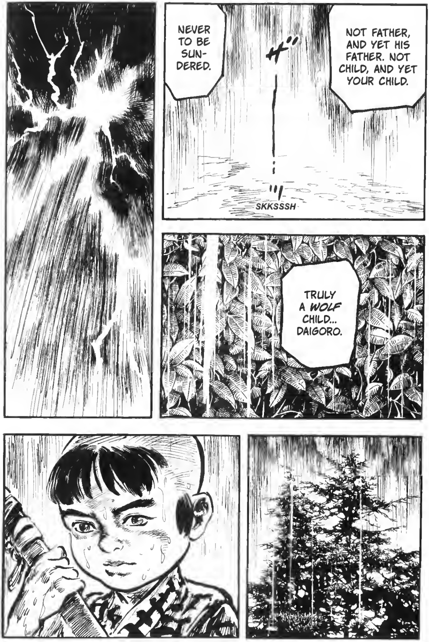

ボッ!!

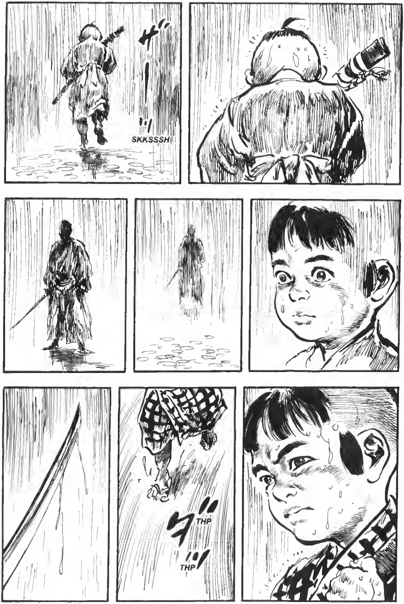


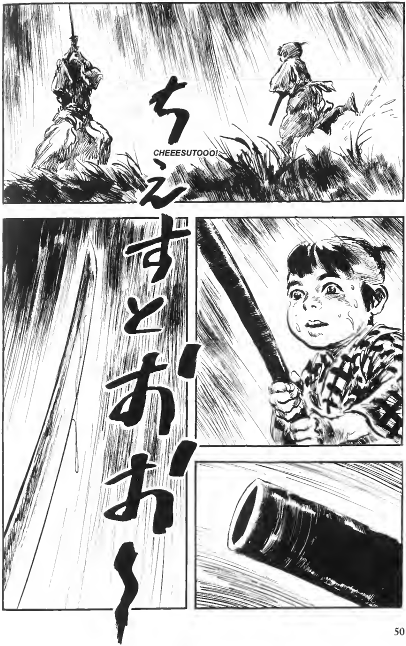

HOH...! *BEHOLD*, SHIGEKATA. THE *SUIŌ-RYŪ* WAVE-SLICING STANCE.
HIS FATHER ŌGAMI ITTŌ-*DONO*'S INNER SECRET?
ENOUGH.

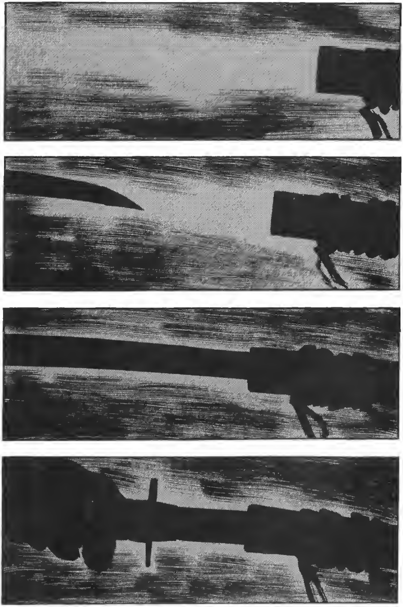

ズシッ
WHDD
ギラッ
FASSH

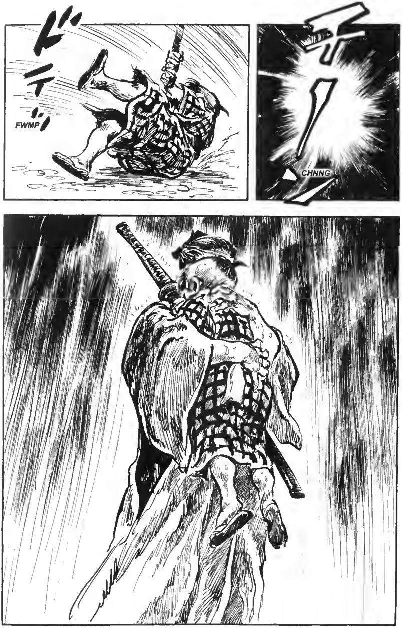

UNDERSTAND, SHIGEKATA?
THAT BOY CANNOT STAY HERE, OR *ANYWHERE.*
YES.
PLIP
YOU TWO ARE BOUND BY *DESTINY.*
SKKSSSH
YOU'VE FOUND *LIFE IN DEATH* TOGETHER TOO MANY TIMES.

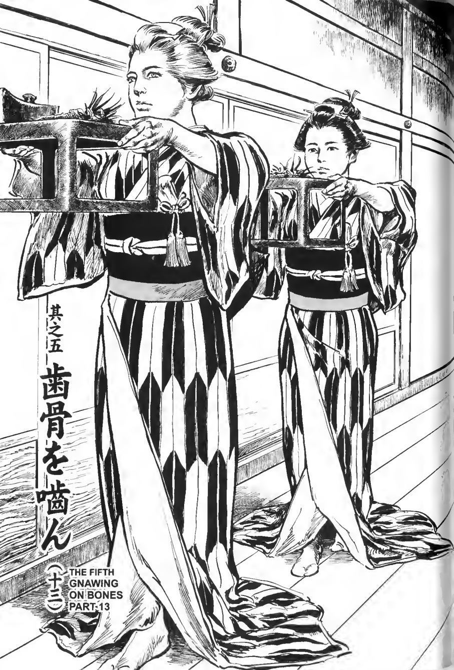

NOT FATHER, AND YET HIS FATHER. NOT CHILD, AND YET YOUR CHILD.
NEVER TO BE SUNDERED.
SKKSSSH
TRULY A *WOLF* CHILD... DAIGORO.


SKKSSSH
THP
THP


ちぇすとおお～
CHEEESUTOOO!




チ
CHNNG
ドテッ
FWMP

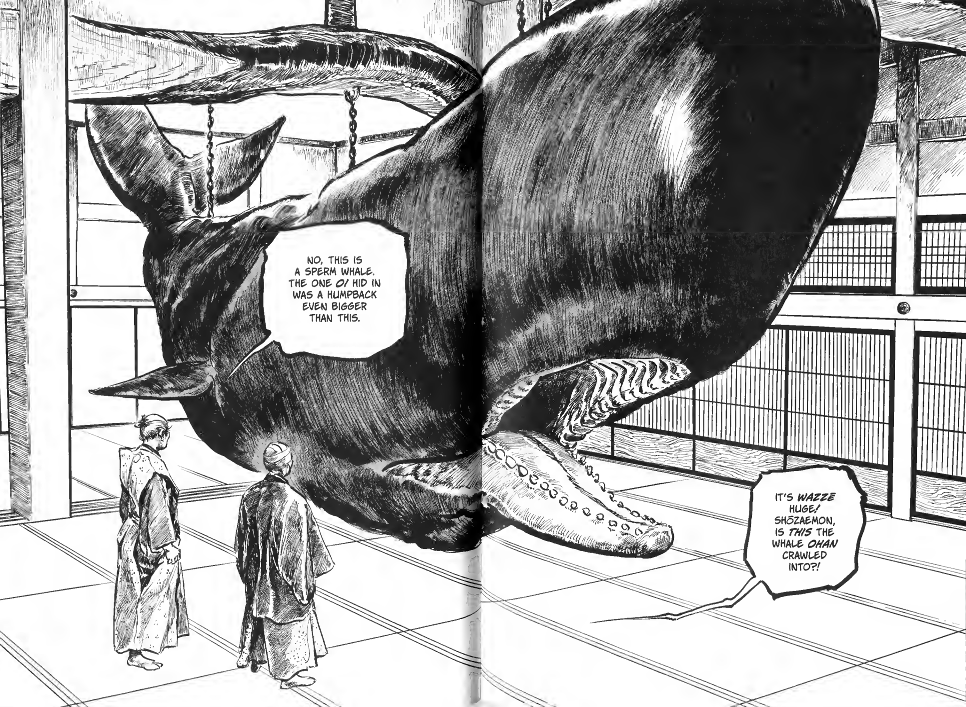


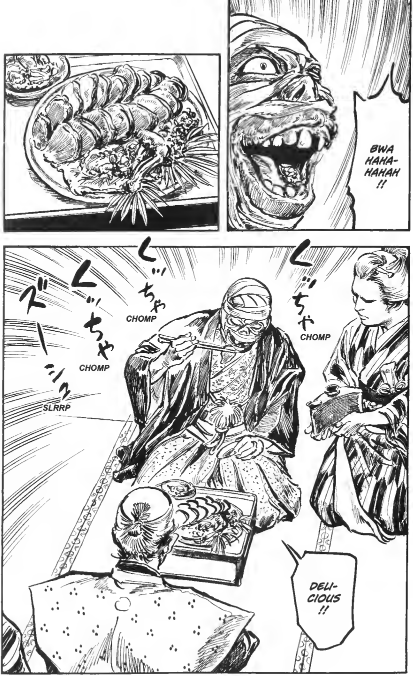
其之五

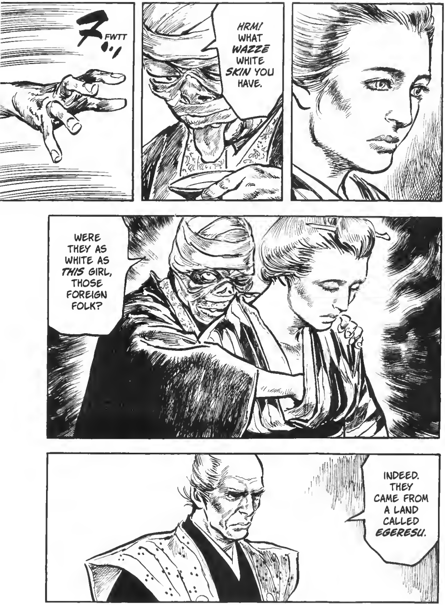
歯骨を噛ん

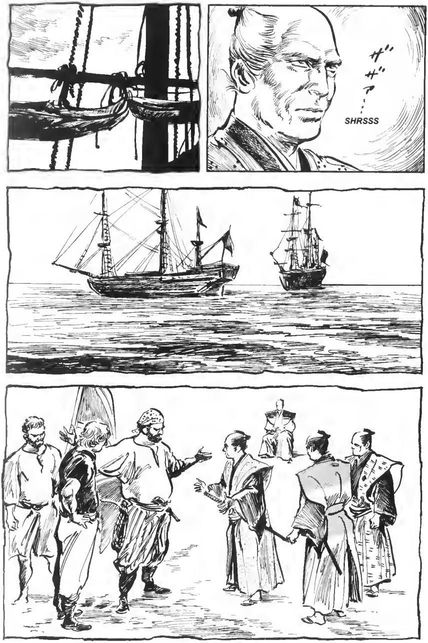
（十三）

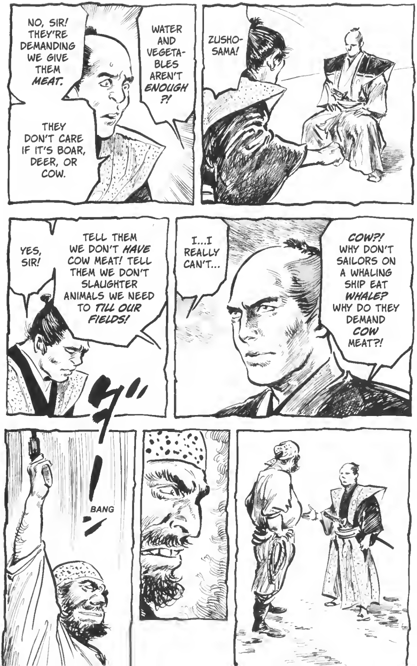
THE FIFTH GNAWING ON BONES PART 13

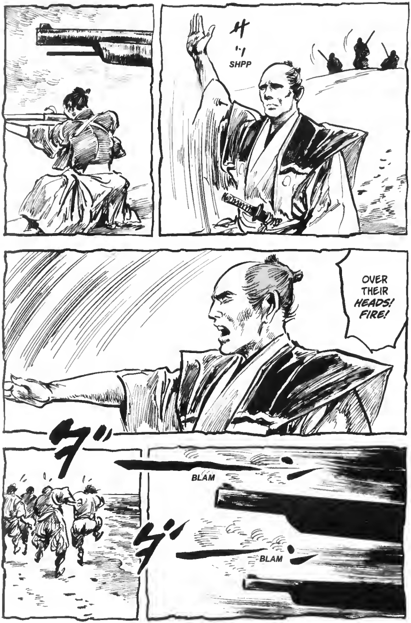

IT'S *WAZZE* HUGE! SHŌZAEMON, IS *THIS* THE WHALE *OHAN* CRAWLED INTO?!
NO, THIS IS A SPERM WHALE. THE ONE *OI* HID IN WAS A HUMPBACK EVEN BIGGER THAN THIS.

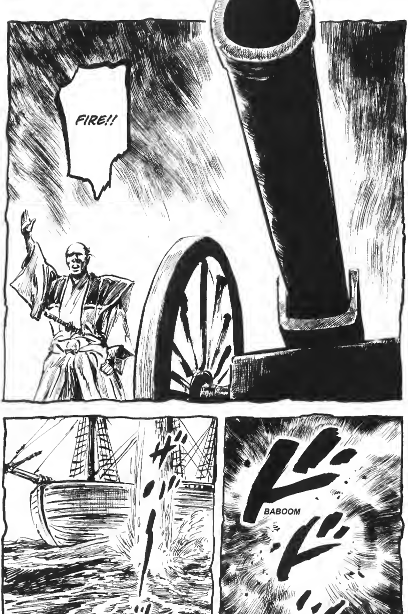

BWA HAHA-HAHAH !!
くぢちゃ
CHOMP
くッちゃ
CHOMP
くッちゃ
CHOMP
ズーッ
SLRRP
DELI-CIOUS !!

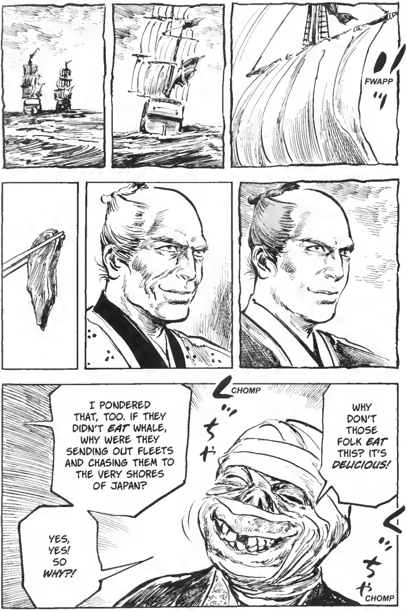

ヌ FWTT
HRM! WHAT *WAZZE* WHITE *SKIN* YOU HAVE.
WERE THEY AS WHITE AS *THIS* GIRL, THOSE FOREIGN FOLK?
INDEED. THEY CAME FROM A LAND CALLED *EGERESU*.

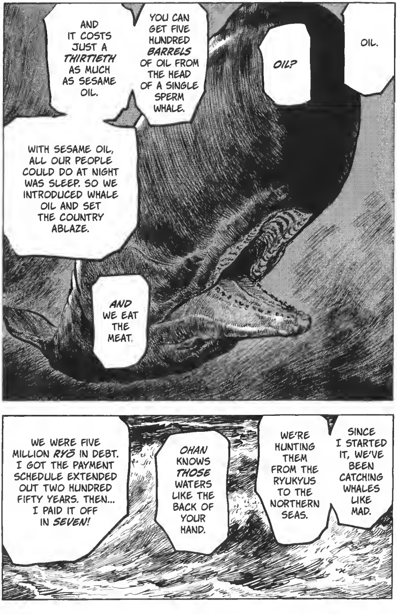

ザザア…
SHRSSS

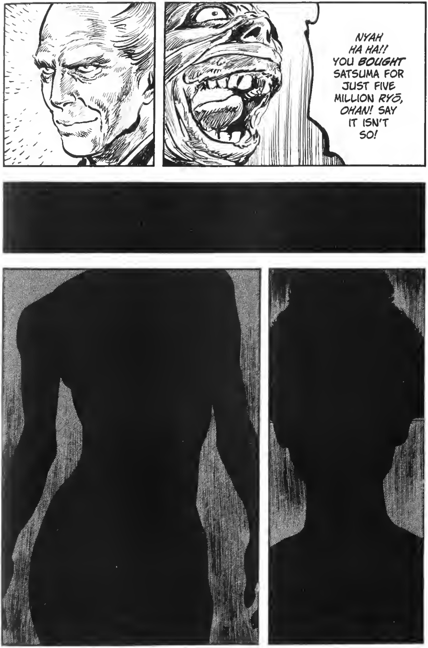

ZUSHO-SAMA!
WATER AND VEGETABLES AREN'T *ENOUGH* ?!
NO, SIR! THEY'RE DEMANDING WE GIVE THEM *MEAT.*
THEY DON'T CARE IF IT'S BOAR, DEER, OR COW.
COW?! WHY DON'T SAILORS ON A WHALING SHIP EAT *WHALE?* WHY DO THEY DEMAND *COW* MEAT?!
I...I REALLY CAN'T...
TELL THEM WE DON'T *HAVE* COW MEAT! TELL THEM WE DON'T SLAUGHTER ANIMALS WE NEED TO *TILL OUR FIELDS!*
YES, SIR!
BANG

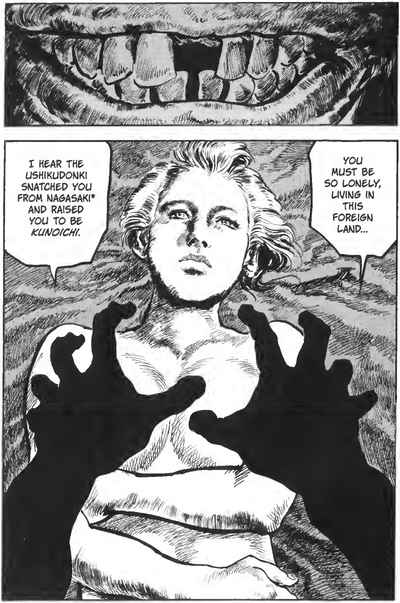

サッ
SHPP
OVER THEIR HEADS! FIRE!
ダ
BLAM
ダー
BLAM


FIRE!!
SPPPASH
BABOOM

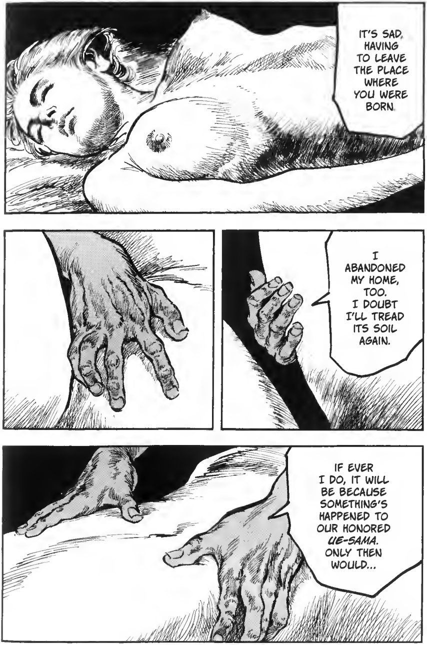

FWAPP
CHOMP
ぐちゃ
WHY DON'T THOSE FOLK *EAT* THIS? IT'S *DELICIOUS!*
I PONDERED THAT, TOO. IF THEY DIDN'T *EAT* WHALE, WHY WERE THEY SENDING OUT FLEETS AND CHASING THEM TO THE VERY SHORES OF JAPAN?
ぐちゃ
CHOMP
YES, YES! SO *WHY?!*

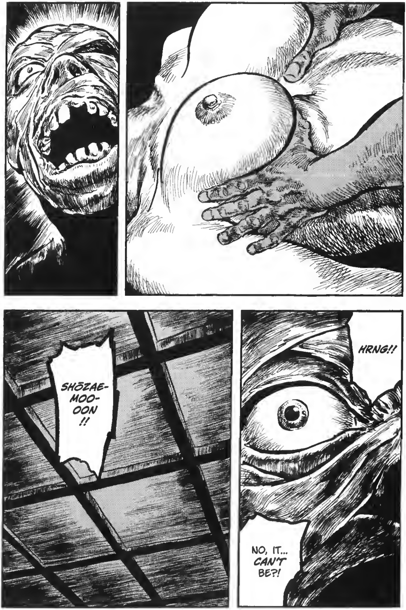

OIL.
OIL?
YOU CAN GET FIVE HUNDRED *BARRELS* OF OIL FROM THE HEAD OF A SINGLE SPERM WHALE.
AND IT COSTS JUST A *THIRTIETH* AS MUCH AS SESAME OIL.
WITH SESAME OIL, ALL OUR PEOPLE COULD DO AT NIGHT WAS SLEEP. SO WE INTRODUCED WHALE OIL AND SET THE COUNTRY ABLAZE.
AND WE EAT THE MEAT.
SINCE I STARTED IT, WE'VE BEEN CATCHING WHALES LIKE MAD.
WE'RE HUNTING THEM FROM THE RYUKYUS TO THE NORTHERN SEAS.
OHAN KNOWS *THOSE* WATERS LIKE THE BACK OF YOUR HAND.
WE WERE FIVE MILLION *RYŌ* IN DEBT. I GOT THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE EXTENDED OUT TWO HUNDRED FIFTY YEARS. THEN... I PAID IT OFF IN *SEVEN!*

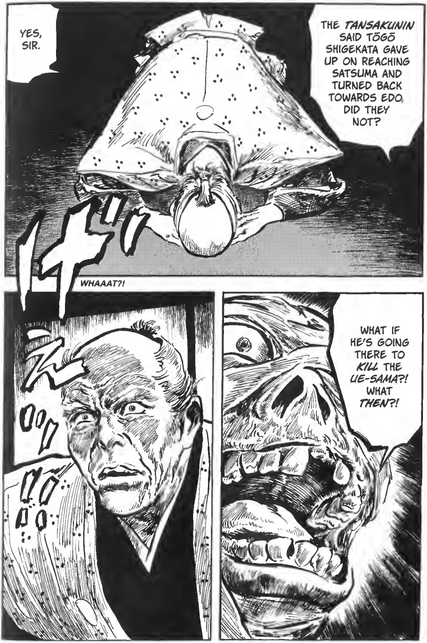

NYAH HA HA!! YOU BOUGHT SATSUMA FOR JUST FIVE MILLION RYŌ, OHAN! SAY IT ISN'T SO!

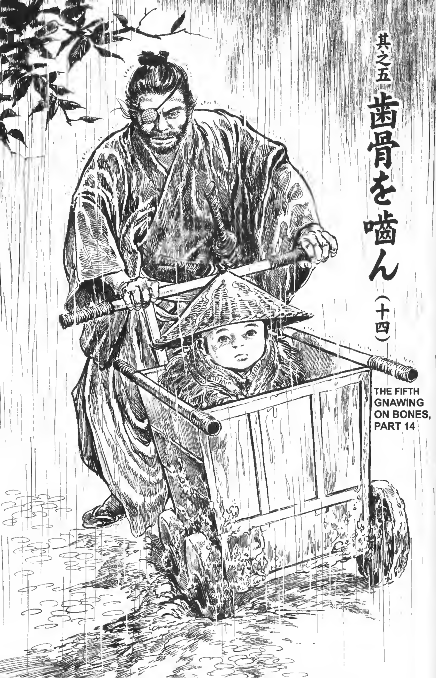

I HEAR THE USHIKUDONKI SNATCHED YOU FROM NAGASAKI* AND RAISED YOU TO BE *KUNOICHI*.
YOU MUST BE SO LONELY, LIVING IN THIS FOREIGN LAND...

*SEE FOOTNOTES.


IT'S SAD, HAVING TO LEAVE THE PLACE WHERE YOU WERE BORN.
I ABANDONED MY HOME, TOO. I DOUBT I'LL TREAD ITS SOIL AGAIN.
IF EVER I DO, IT WILL BE BECAUSE SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO OUR HONORED *UE-SAMA*. ONLY THEN WOULD...

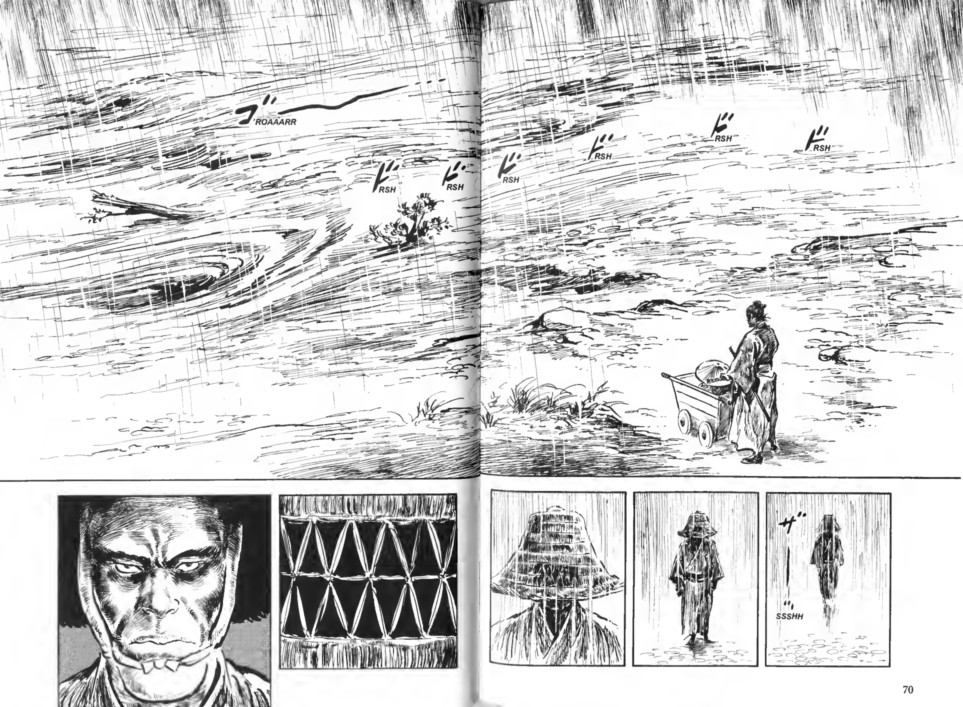

HRNG!!
NO, IT... CAN'T BE?!
SHŌZAE-MOOOON!!

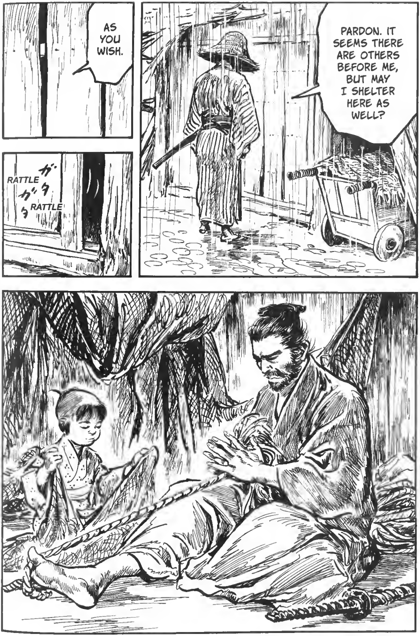

THE *TANSAKUNIN* SAID TŌGŌ SHIGEKATA GAVE UP ON REACHING SATSUMA AND TURNED BACK TOWARDS EDO, DID THEY NOT?
YES, SIR.
WHAAAT?!
WHAT IF HE'S GOING THERE TO *KILL* THE *UE-SAMA?!* WHAT *THEN?!*

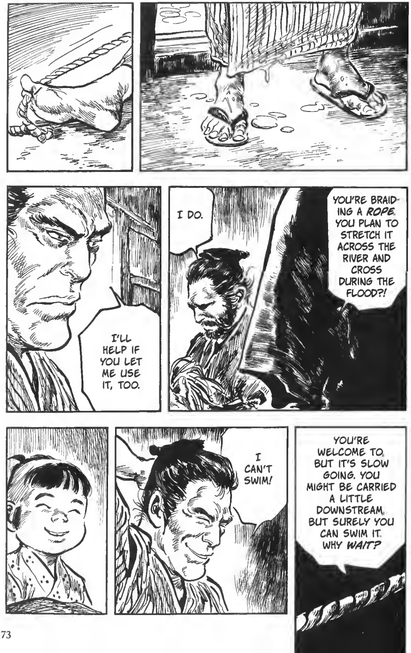


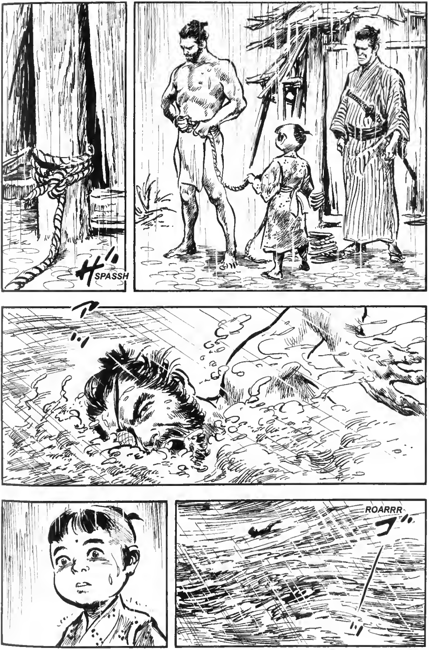
其之五　歯骨を噛ん（十四）

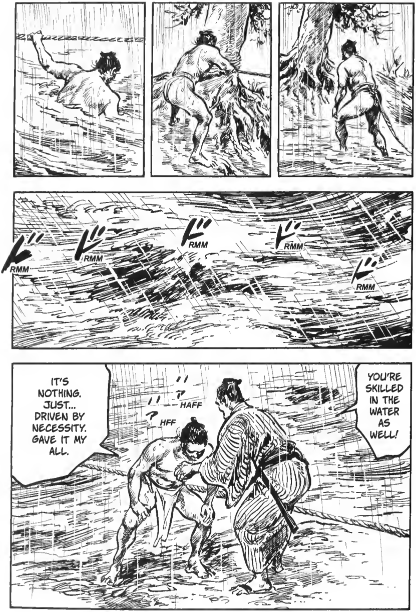
THE FIFTH
GNAWING ON BONES, PART 14

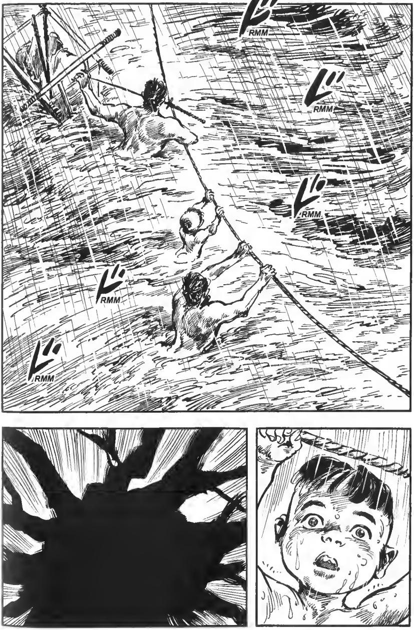

ド RSH
ド RSH
ド RSH
ド RSH
ド RSH
ド RSH
ゴ——…… ROAAARR
ザ——… SSSHH

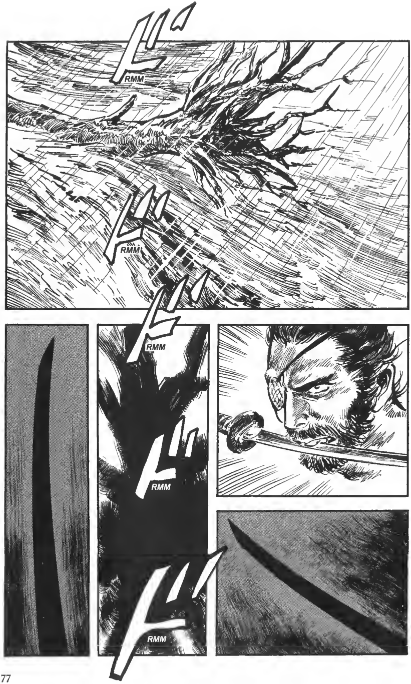

PARDON. IT SEEMS THERE ARE OTHERS BEFORE ME, BUT MAY I SHELTER HERE AS WELL?
AS YOU WISH.
ガタガタ
RATTLE
RATTLE


YOU'RE BRAIDING A *ROPE.* YOU PLAN TO STRETCH IT ACROSS THE RIVER AND CROSS DURING THE FLOOD?!
I DO.
I'LL HELP IF YOU LET ME USE IT, TOO.
YOU'RE WELCOME TO. BUT IT'S SLOW GOING. YOU MIGHT BE CARRIED A LITTLE DOWNSTREAM. BUT SURELY YOU CAN SWIM IT. WHY *WAIT?*
I CAN'T SWIM!


SPASSH
ROARRR


RMM
RMM
RMM
RMM
RMM
YOU'RE SKILLED IN THE WATER AS WELL!
HAFF
HFF
IT'S NOTHING. JUST... DRIVEN BY NECESSITY. GAVE IT MY ALL.


ド RMM
ド RMM
ド RMM
ド RMM
ド RMM


ドд
RMM
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RMM
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RMM
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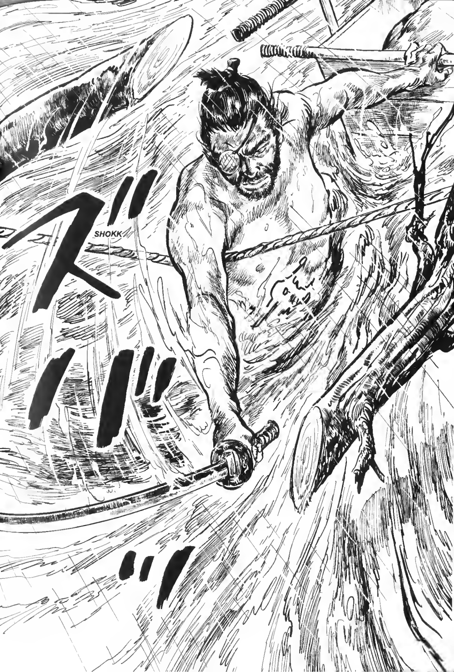
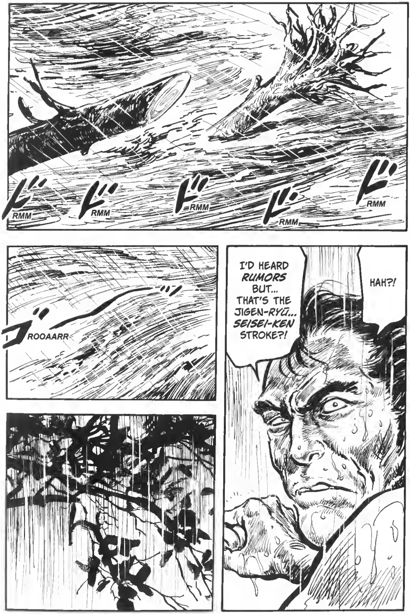
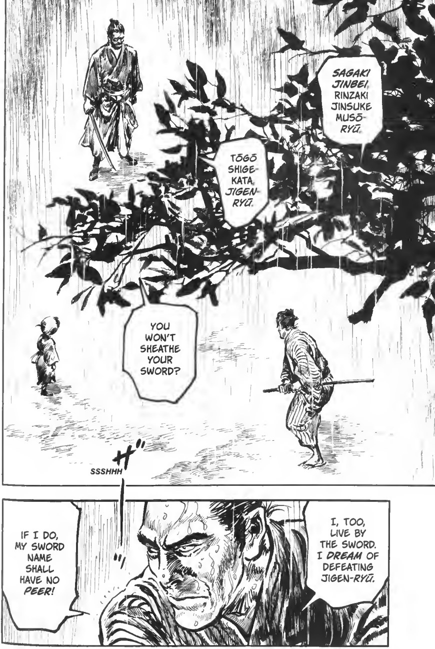
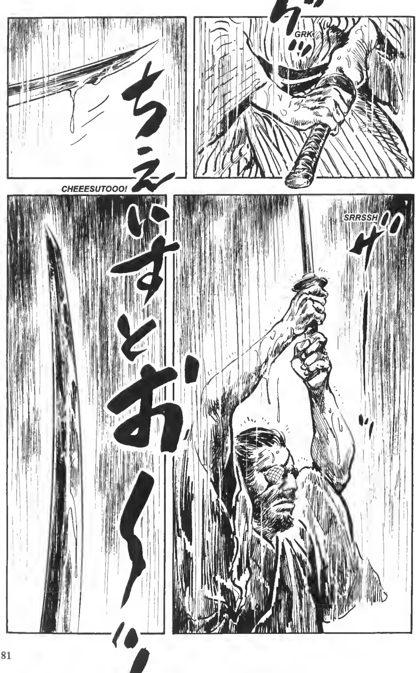
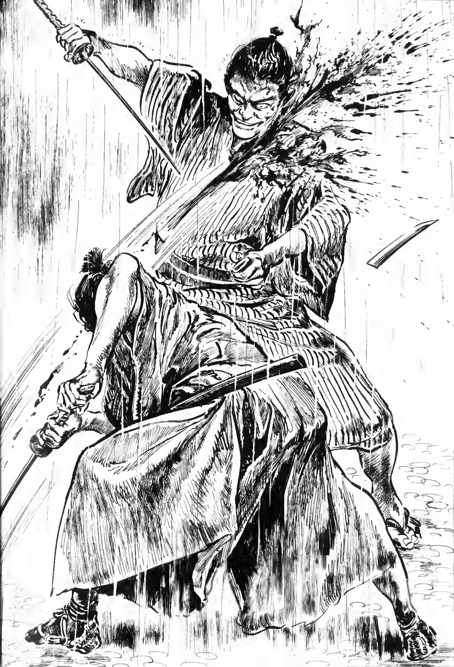
RMM

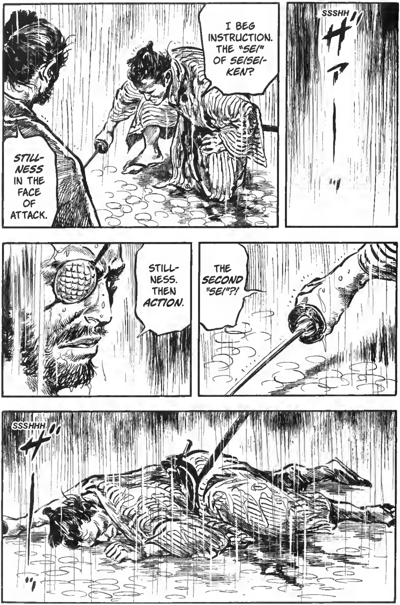

ズバッ
SHOKK

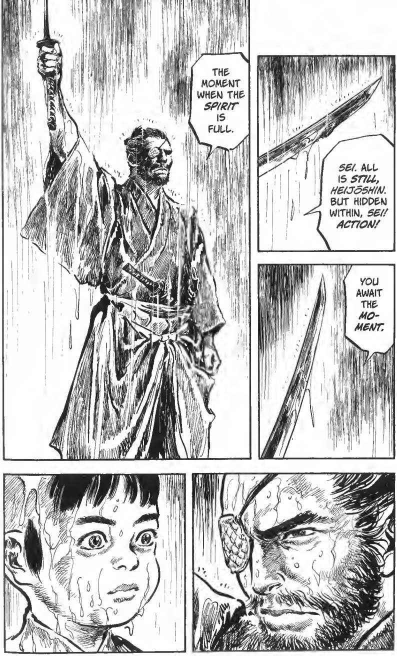

ド RMM
ド RMM
ド RMM
ド RMM
ド RMM
ゴッ ROOAARR
I'D HEARD *RUMORS* BUT... THAT'S THE JIGEN-*RYŪ*... *SEISEI-KEN* STROKE?!
HAH?!

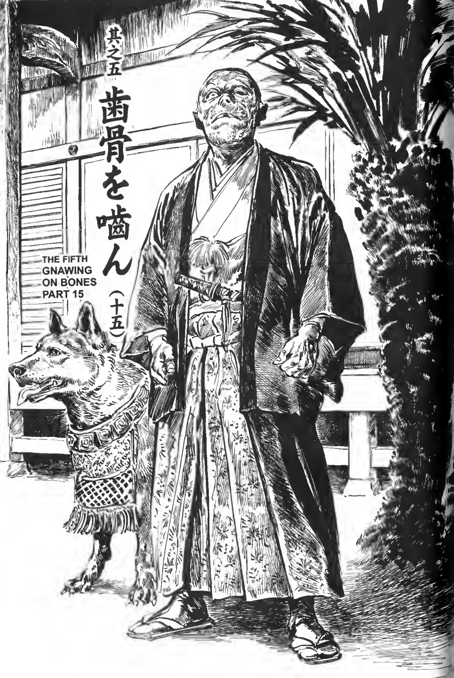

SAGAKI JINBEI, RINZAKI JINSUKE MUSŌ-*RYŪ*.
TŌGŌ SHIGEKATA, *JIGEN-RYŪ*.
YOU WON'T SHEATHE YOUR SWORD?
ザ
SSSHHH
I, TOO, LIVE BY THE SWORD. I *DREAM* OF DEFEATING JIGEN-*RYŪ*.
IF I DO, MY SWORD NAME SHALL HAVE NO *PEER*!


グッ
GRK
ちぇいすとおーッ
CHEEESUTOOO!
ザーッ
SRRSSH




I BEG INSTRUCTION. THE "SEI" OF SEISEI-KEN?
STILLNESS IN THE FACE OF ATTACK.
SSSHH
ザァー
STILLNESS. THEN ACTION.
THE SECOND "SEI"?!
SSSHHH
ザー

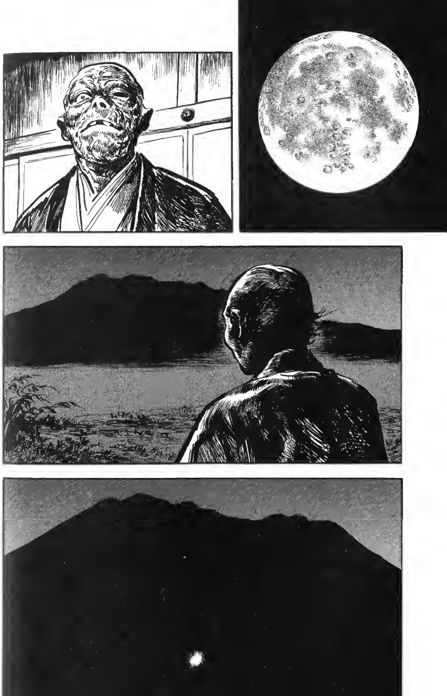

THE MOMENT WHEN THE *SPIRIT* IS FULL.
SEI. ALL IS *STILL,* *HEIJŌSHIN.* BUT HIDDEN WITHIN, *SEI!* *ACTION!*
YOU AWAIT THE *MOMENT.*

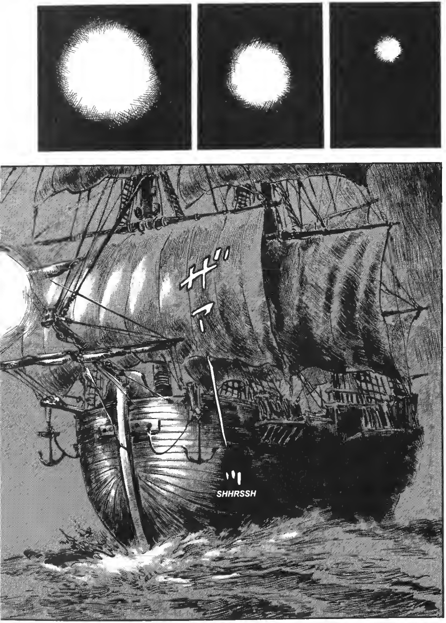


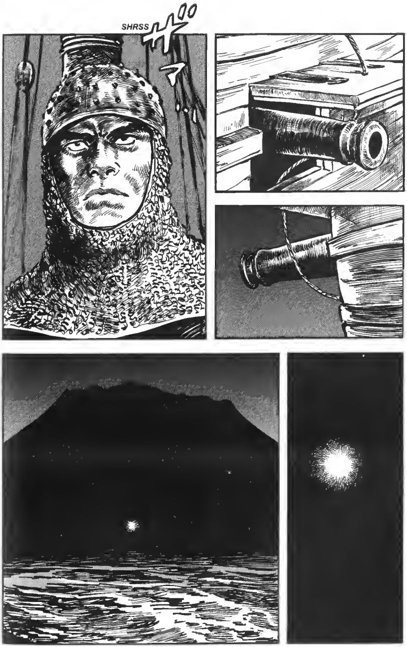
其之五

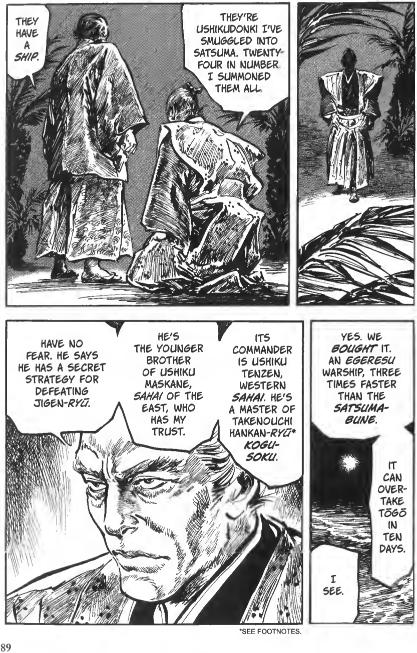
歯骨を噛ん（十五）

THE FIFTH
GNAWING ON BONES
PART 15

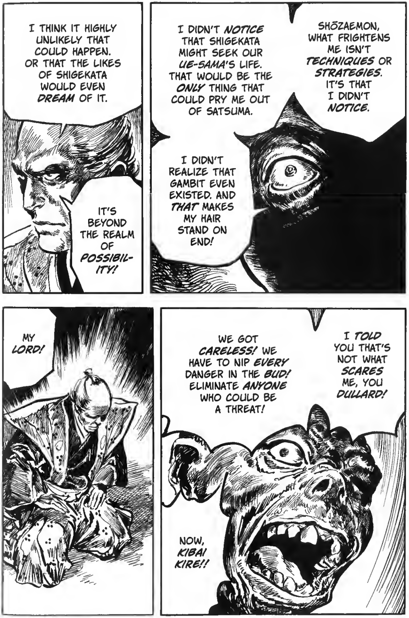


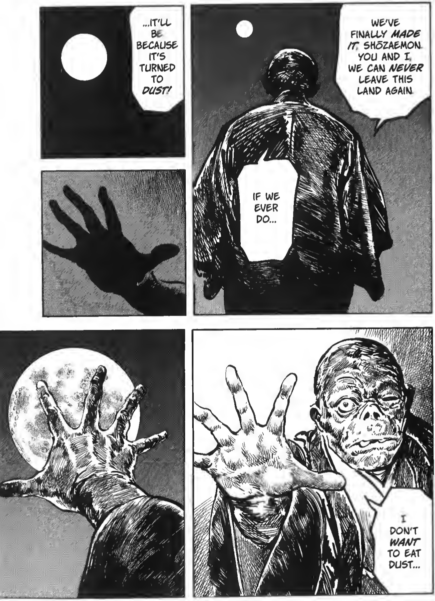

ザァ
ッ
SHHRSSH

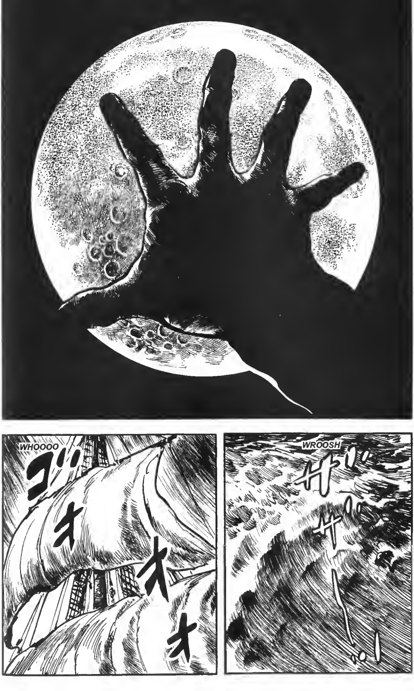

SHRSS
ザァ

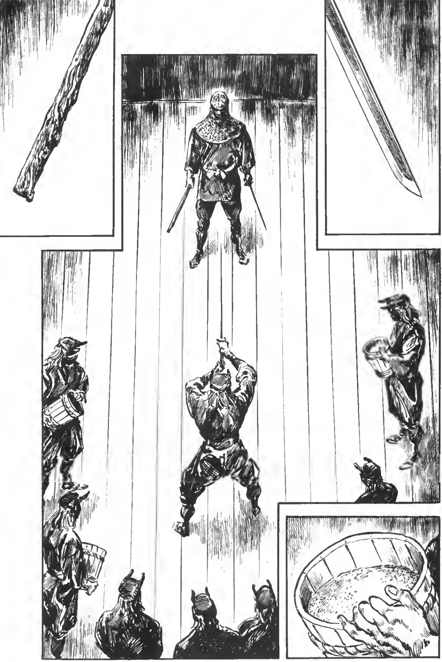

THEY'RE USHIKUDONKI I'VE SMUGGLED INTO SATSUMA. TWENTY-FOUR IN NUMBER. I SUMMONED THEM ALL.
THEY HAVE A *SHIP*.
YES. WE *BOUGHT* IT. AN *EGERESU* WARSHIP, THREE TIMES FASTER THAN THE *SATSUMA-BUNE*.
IT CAN OVERTAKE TŌGŌ IN TEN DAYS.
I SEE.
ITS COMMANDER IS USHIKU TENZEN, WESTERN *SAHAI*. HE'S A MASTER OF TAKENOUCHI HANKAN-*RYŪ** *KOGUSOKU*.
HE'S THE YOUNGER BROTHER OF USHIKU MASKANE, *SAHAI* OF THE EAST, WHO HAS MY TRUST.
HAVE NO FEAR. HE SAYS HE HAS A SECRET STRATEGY FOR DEFEATING JIGEN-*RYŪ*.

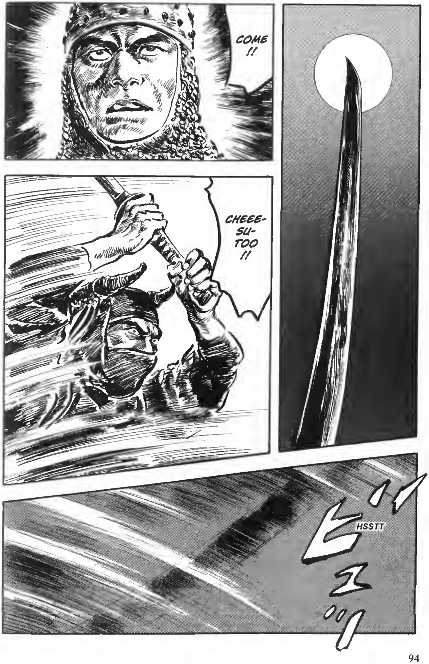
*SEE FOOTNOTES.

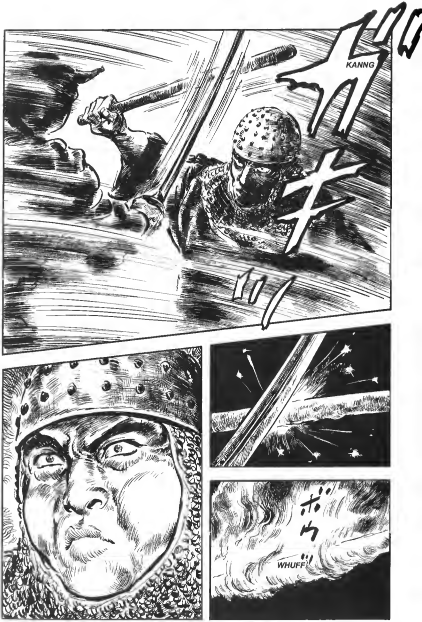

I THINK IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT COULD HAPPEN. OR THAT THE LIKES OF SHIGEKATA WOULD EVEN *DREAM* OF IT.
IT'S BEYOND THE REALM OF *POSSIBILITY!*
I DIDN'T *NOTICE* THAT SHIGEKATA MIGHT SEEK OUR *UE-SAMA*'S LIFE. THAT WOULD BE THE *ONLY* THING THAT COULD PRY ME OUT OF SATSUMA.
SHŌZAEMON, WHAT FRIGHTENS ME ISN'T *TECHNIQUES* OR *STRATEGIES*. IT'S THAT I DIDN'T *NOTICE*.
I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT GAMBIT EVEN EXISTED. AND *THAT* MAKES MY HAIR STAND ON END!
MY *LORD!*
WE GOT *CARELESS!* WE HAVE TO NIP *EVERY* DANGER IN THE *BUD!* ELIMINATE *ANYONE* WHO COULD BE A THREAT!
I *TOLD* YOU THAT'S NOT WHAT *SCARES* ME, YOU *DULLARD!*
NOW, *KIBAI KIRE!!*

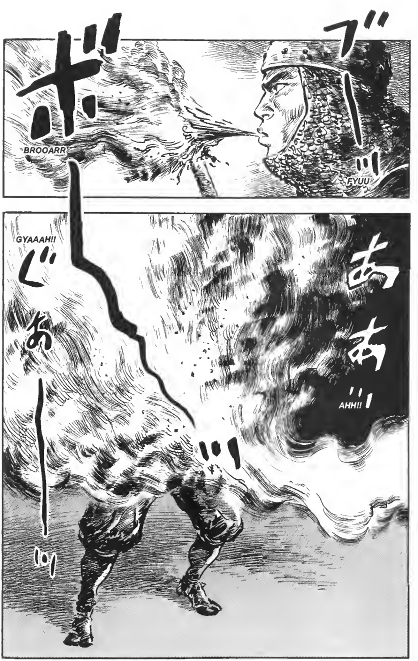

...IT'LL BE BECAUSE IT'S TURNED TO *DUST!*
WE'VE FINALLY *MADE IT,* SHŌZAEMON. YOU AND I, WE CAN *NEVER* LEAVE THIS LAND AGAIN.
IF WE EVER DO...
I DON'T *WANT* TO EAT DUST...

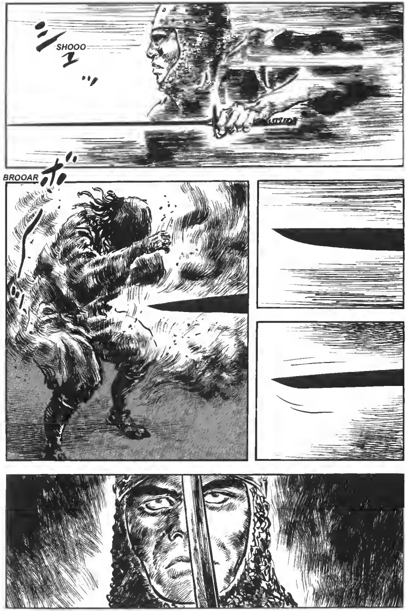

WHOOOO
ゴオオオ
WROOSH
ザザー!!

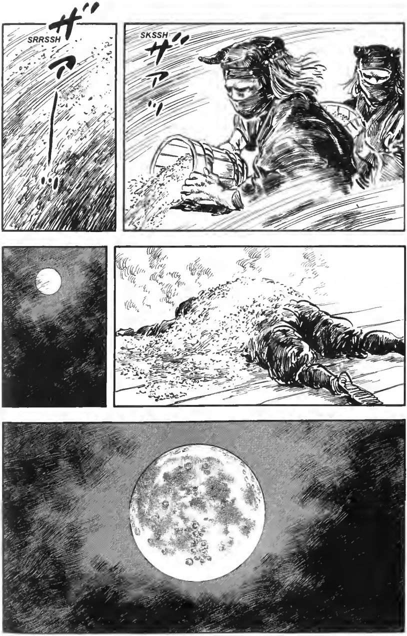


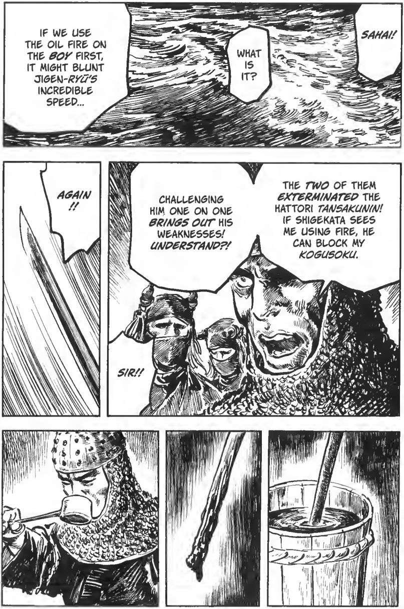

COME !!
CHEEE-SU-TOO !!
ビュッ
HSSTT

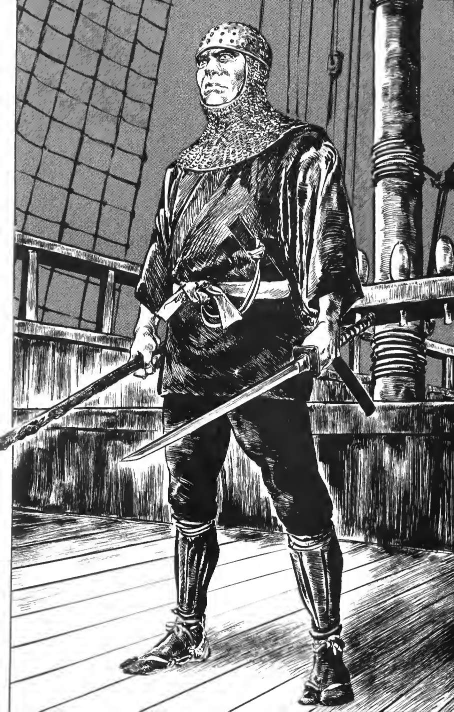

ガキッ
KANNG
ボウッ
WHUFF


ブーッ
FYUU
ボーーッ
BROOARR
ああッ!!
AHH!!
ぐあーーッ
GYAAAH!!


シュッ
SHOOO
ボーッ
BROOAR


SKSSH
ザァァッ
SRRSSH
ザァー…


SAHAI!
WHAT IS IT?
IF WE USE THE OIL FIRE ON THE *BOY* FIRST, IT MIGHT BLUNT JIGEN-*RYŪ'S* INCREDIBLE SPEED...
THE *TWO* OF THEM *EXTERMINATED* THE HATTORI *TANSAKUNIN!* IF SHIGEKATA SEES ME USING FIRE, HE CAN BLOCK MY *KOGUSOKU.*
CHALLENGING HIM ONE ON ONE *BRINGS OUT* HIS WEAKNESSES! *UNDERSTAND?!*
SIR!!
AGAIN !!

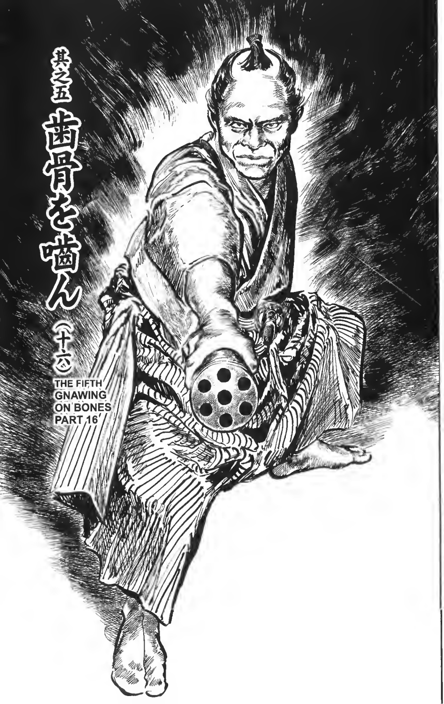


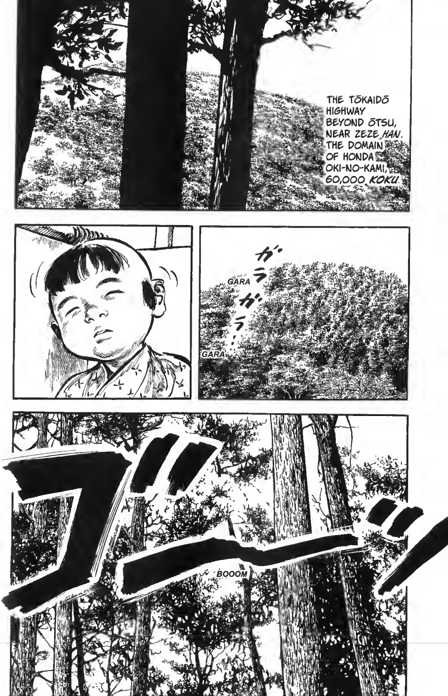
其之五

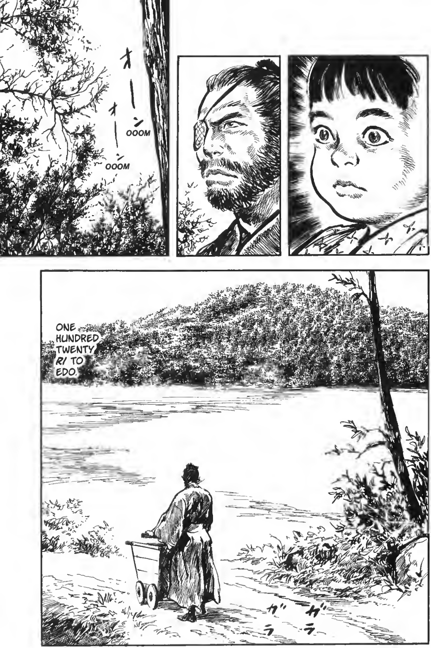
歯骨を噛ん

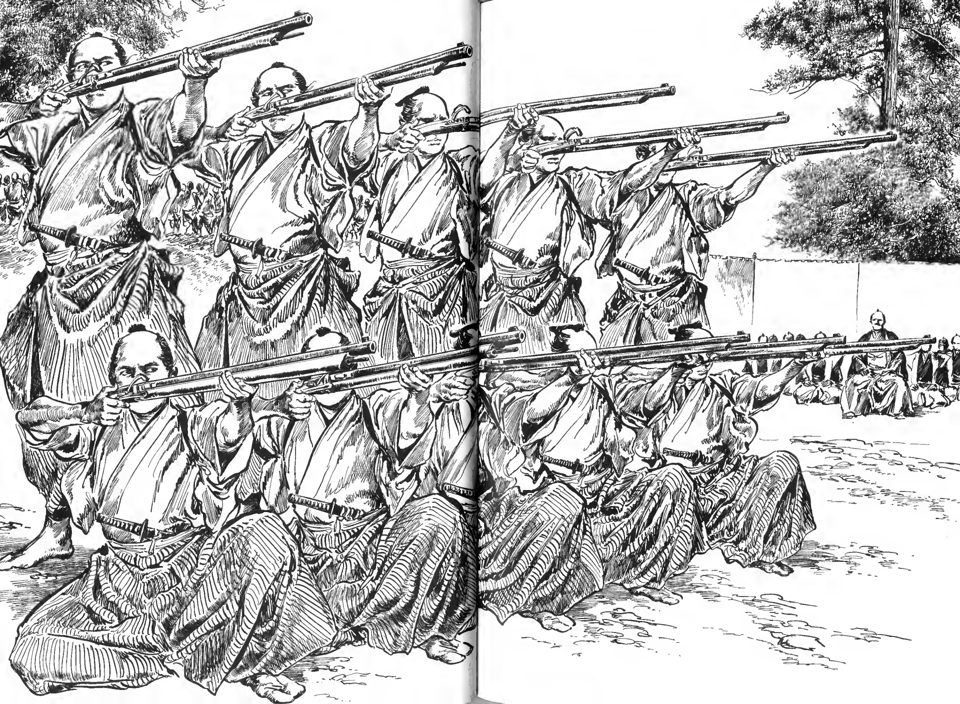
（十六）

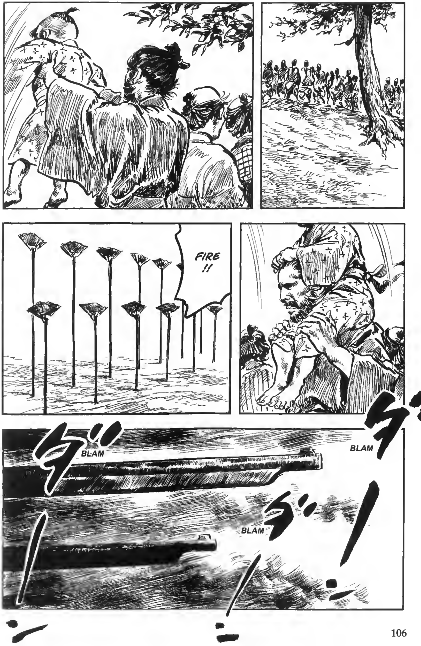
THE FIFTH GNAWING ON BONES PART 16

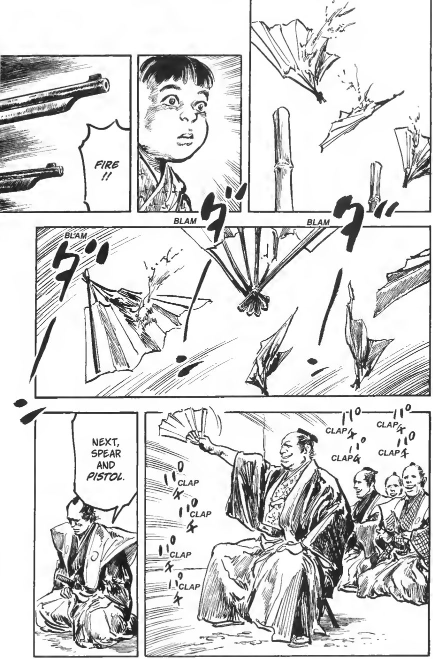


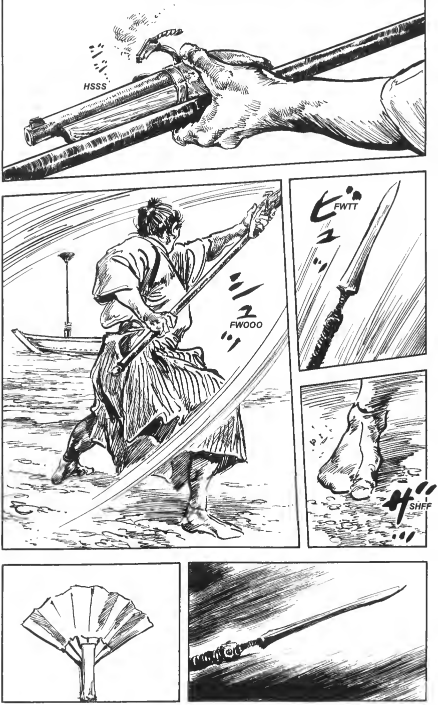

THE TŌKAIDŌ HIGHWAY BEYOND ŌTSU, NEAR ZEZE *HAN*. THE DOMAIN OF HONDA OKI-NO-KAMI, 60,000 *KOKU*.
ガラ
GARA
ガラ…
GARA
ゴーッ
BOOOM

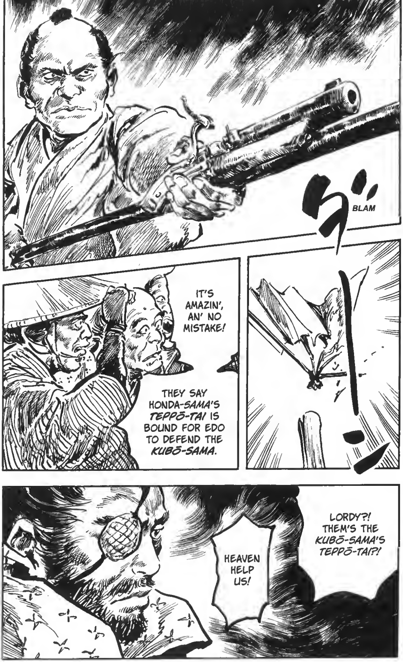

オーン
OOOM
オーン
OOOM
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY *RI* TO EDO.
ガラ
ガラ

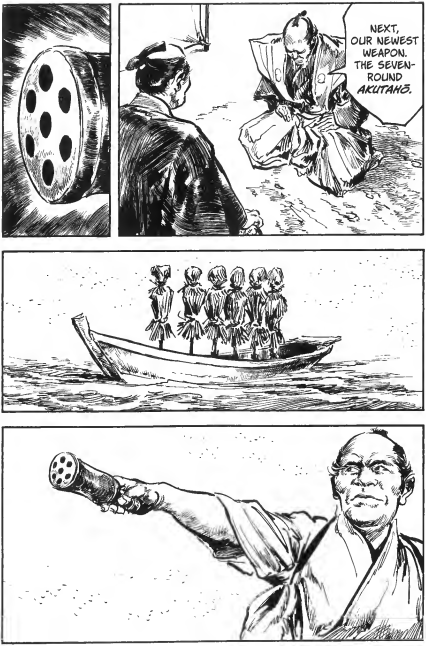


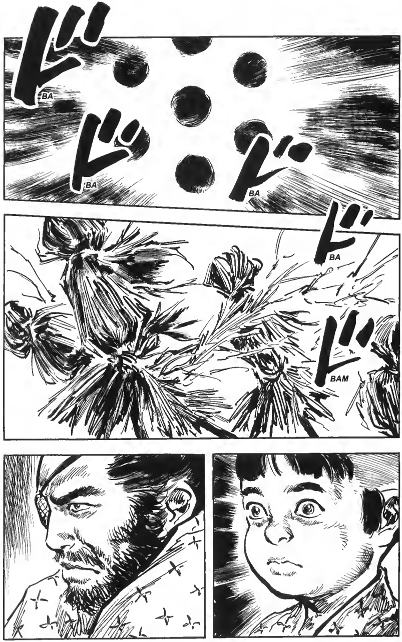

FIRE !!
ダン
BLAM
ダン
BLAM
ダン
BLAM

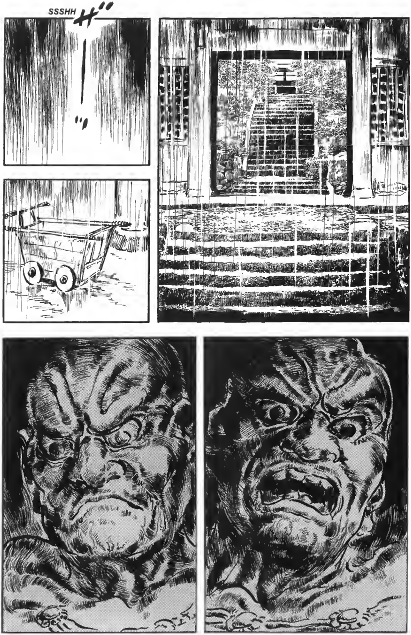

FIRE !!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
NEXT, SPEAR AND *PISTOL.*
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

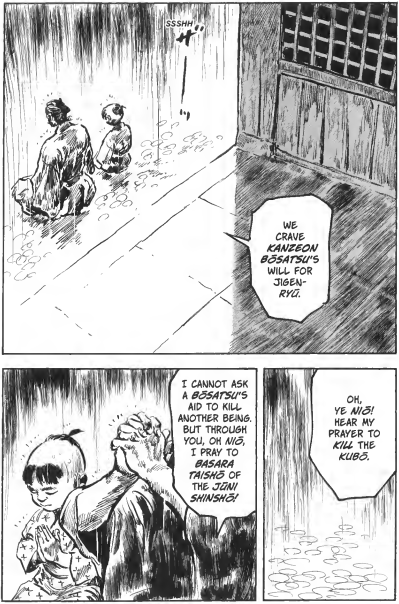

HSSS
FWTT
FWOOO
SHFF

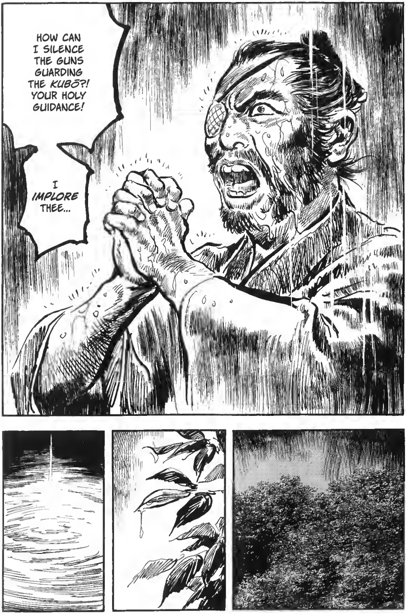

BLAM
IT'S AMAZIN', AN' NO MISTAKE!
THEY SAY HONDA-*SAMA*'S *TEPPŌ-TAI* IS BOUND FOR EDO TO DEFEND THE *KUBŌ-SAMA*.
LORDY?! THEM'S THE *KUBŌ-SAMA*'S *TEPPŌ-TAI*?!
HEAVEN HELP US!

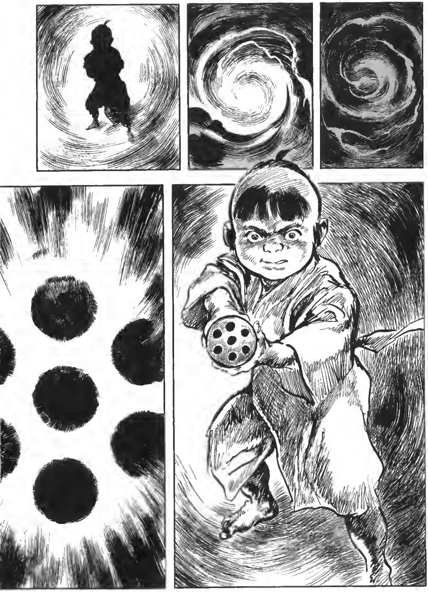

NEXT, OUR NEWEST WEAPON. THE SEVEN-ROUND *AKUTAHŌ.*

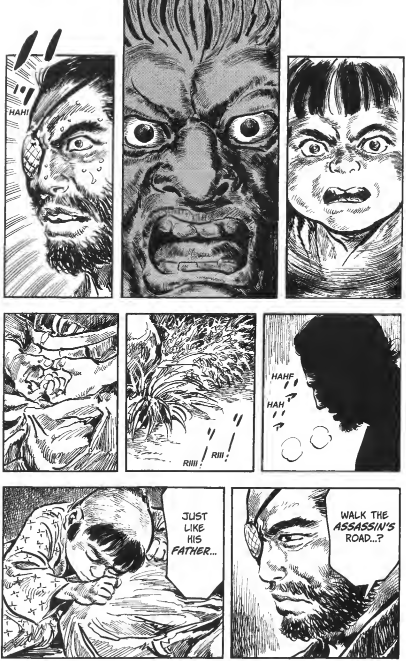

ド
BA
ド
BA
ド
BA
ド
BA
ド
BAM


SSSHH

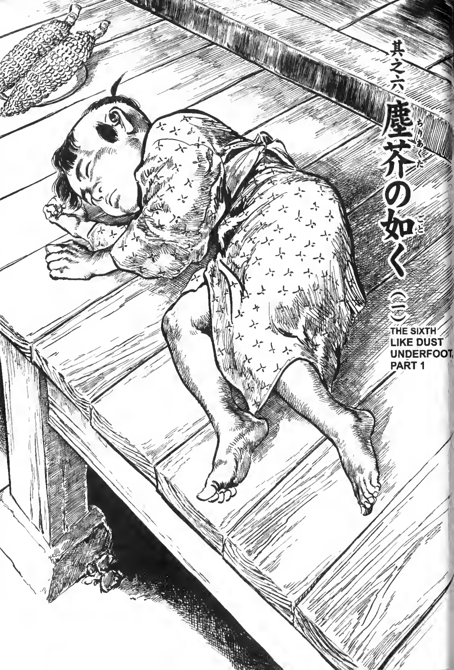

SSSHH
WE CRAVE *KANZEON BŌSATSU*'S WILL FOR JIGEN-*RYŪ*.
I CANNOT ASK A *BŌSATSU*'S AID TO KILL ANOTHER BEING. BUT THROUGH YOU, OH *NIŌ*, I PRAY TO *BASARA TAISHŌ* OF THE *JŪNI SHINSHŌ*!
OH, YE *NIŌ*! HEAR MY PRAYER TO *KILL* THE *KUBŌ*.


HOW CAN I SILENCE THE GUNS GUARDING THE *KUBŌ*?! YOUR HOLY GUIDANCE!
I *IMPLORE* THEE...




HAH!
RIII!
RIIII!
HAHF
HAH
JUST LIKE HIS *FATHER*...
WALK THE *ASSASSIN'S* ROAD...?

THE THIRD: GNAWING ON BONES. THE END



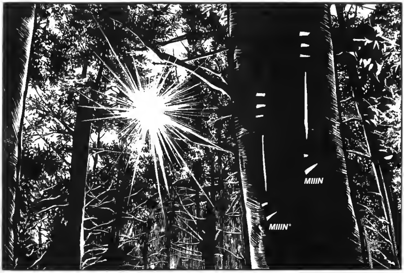
其之六

塵芥（ちりあくた）の如（ごと）く

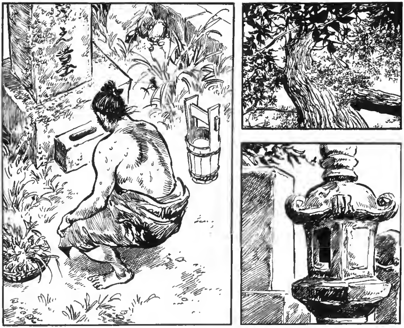
（一）

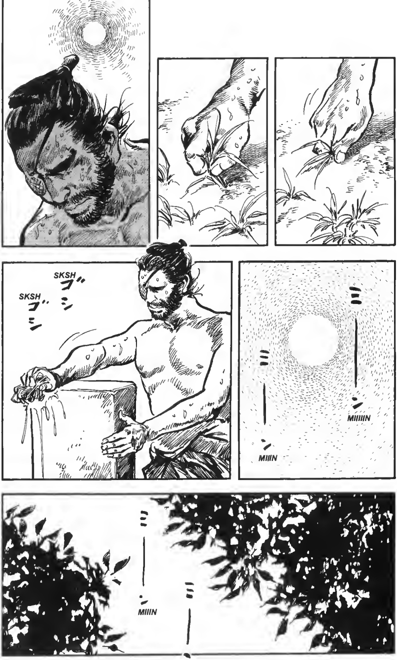
THE SIXTH

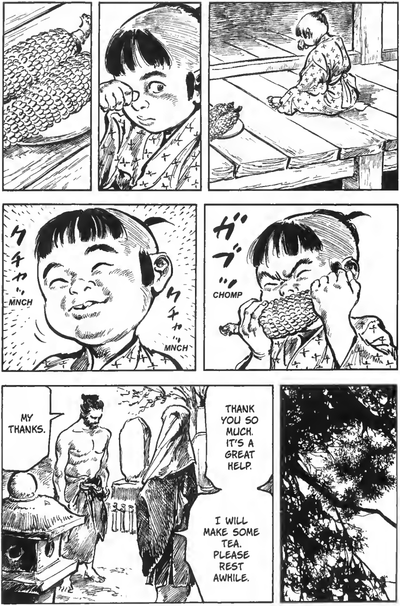
LIKE DUST UNDERFOOT, PART 1

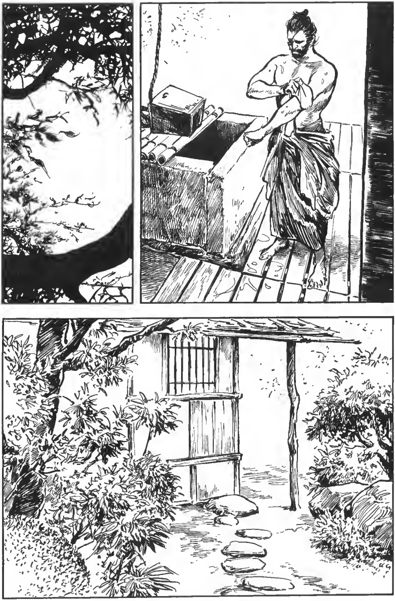

MIIIN
MIIIN*

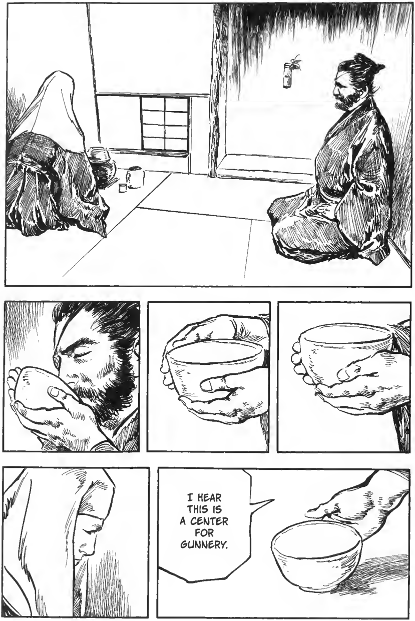
*SEE FOOTNOTES.

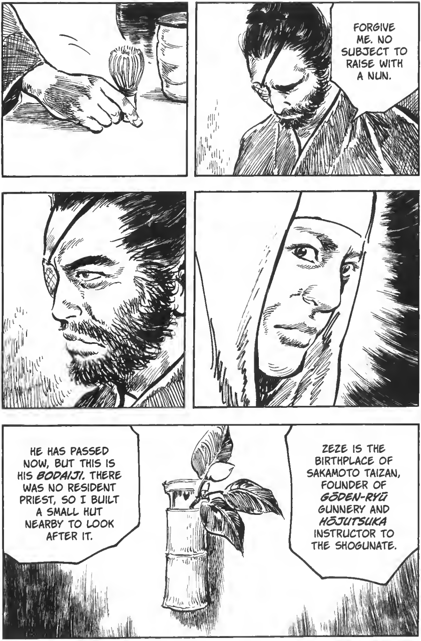


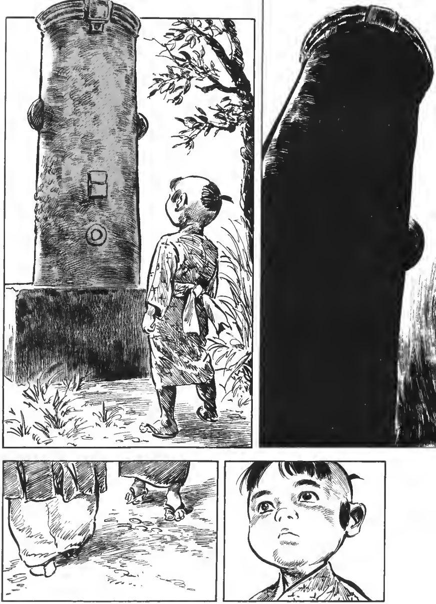

SKSH ゴシ
SKSH ゴシ
ミーン MIIIIN
ミーン MIIIN
ミーン MIIIN
ミーン MIIIIN

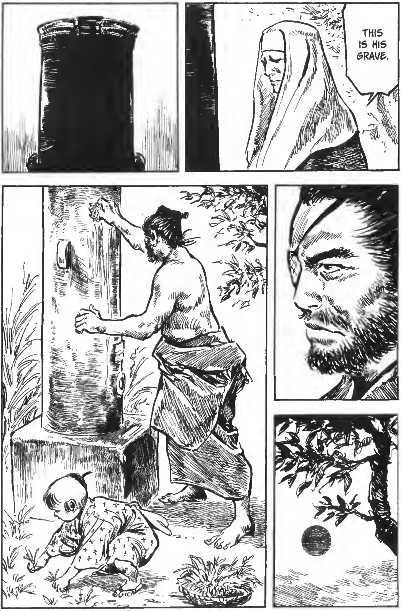

クチャッ
MNCH
クチャッ
MNCH
ガブッ
CHOMP
MY THANKS.
THANK YOU SO MUCH. IT'S A GREAT HELP.
I WILL MAKE SOME TEA. PLEASE REST AWHILE.

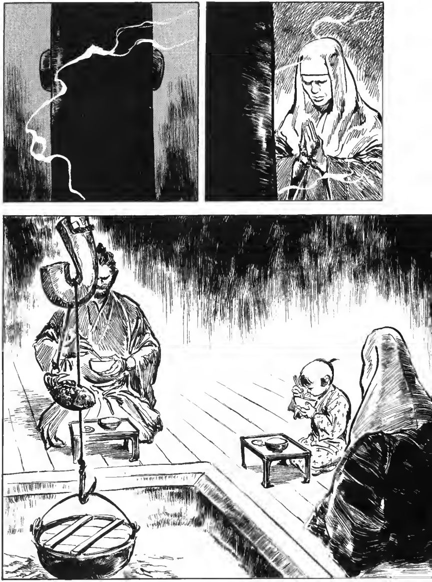


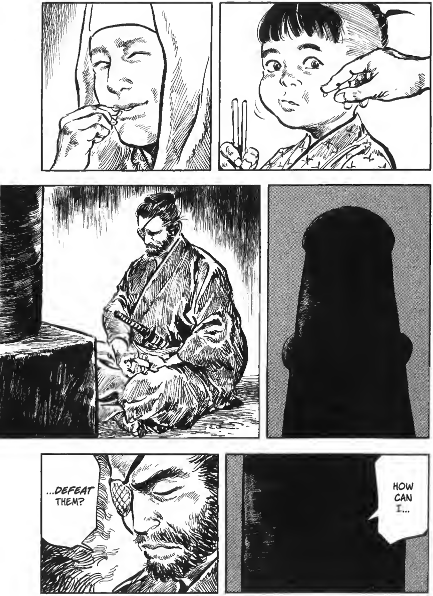

I HEAR THIS IS A CENTER FOR GUNNERY.

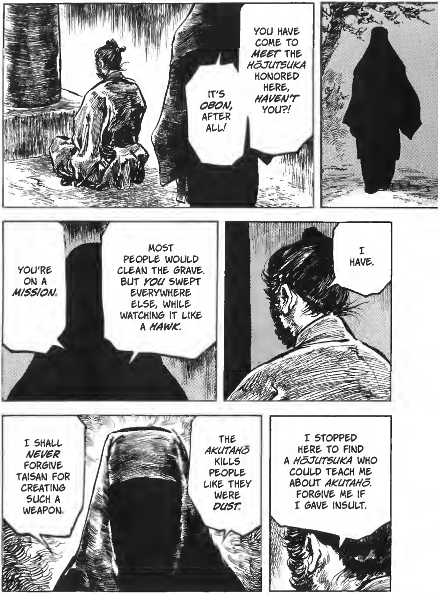

FORGIVE ME. NO SUBJECT TO RAISE WITH A NUN.
ZEZE IS THE BIRTHPLACE OF SAKAMOTO TAIZAN, FOUNDER OF *GŌDEN-RYŪ* GUNNERY AND *HŌJUTSUKA* INSTRUCTOR TO THE SHOGUNATE.
HE HAS PASSED NOW, BUT THIS IS HIS *BODAIJI.* THERE WAS NO RESIDENT PRIEST, SO I BUILT A SMALL HUT NEARBY TO LOOK AFTER IT.

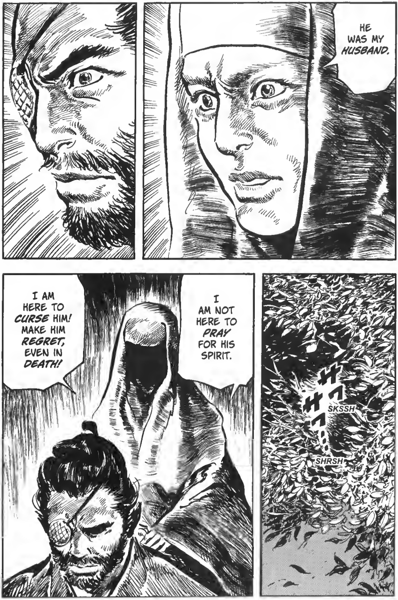


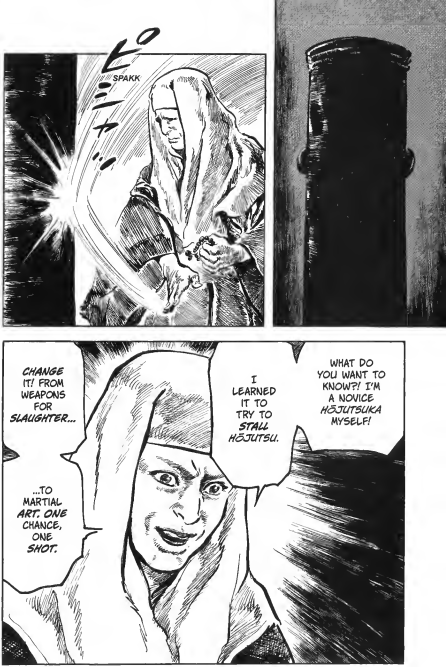

THIS IS HIS GRAVE.

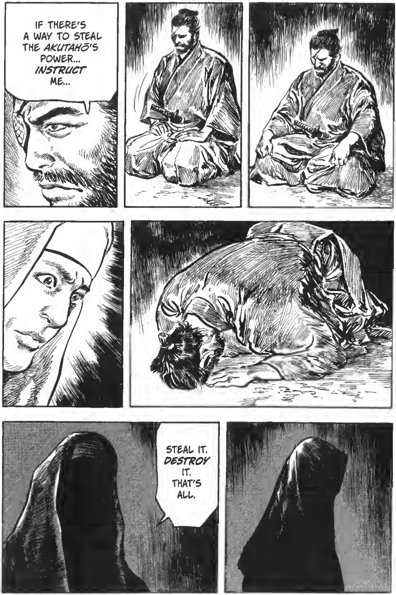


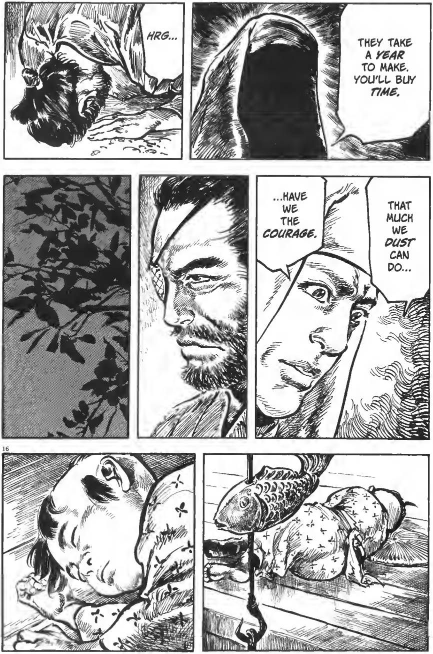

HOW CAN I...
...DEFEAT THEM?

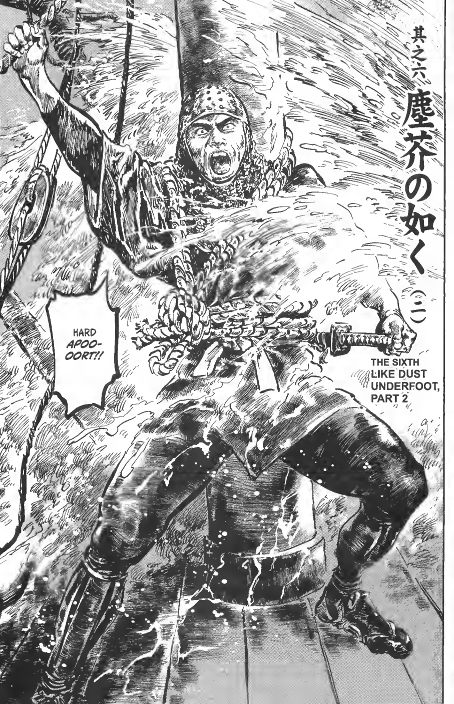

YOU HAVE COME TO *MEET* THE *HŌJUTSUKA* HONORED HERE, *HAVEN'T* YOU?!
IT'S *OBON,* AFTER ALL!
I HAVE.
MOST PEOPLE WOULD CLEAN THE GRAVE. BUT *YOU* SWEPT EVERYWHERE ELSE, WHILE WATCHING IT LIKE A *HAWK*.
YOU'RE ON A *MISSION*.
I STOPPED HERE TO FIND A *HŌJUTSUKA* WHO COULD TEACH ME ABOUT *AKUTAHŌ*. FORGIVE ME IF I GAVE INSULT.
THE *AKUTAHŌ* KILLS PEOPLE LIKE THEY WERE *DUST*.
I SHALL *NEVER* FORGIVE TAISAN FOR CREATING SUCH A WEAPON.


HE WAS MY *HUSBAND.*
SKSSH
SHRSH
I AM NOT HERE TO *PRAY* FOR HIS SPIRIT.
I AM HERE TO *CURSE* HIM! MAKE HIM *REGRET,* EVEN IN *DEATH!*


ピシャッ
SPAKK
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?! I'M A NOVICE *HŌJUTSUKA* MYSELF!
I LEARNED IT TO TRY TO *STALL* *HŌJUTSU*.
CHANGE IT! FROM WEAPONS FOR *SLAUGHTER...*
...TO MARTIAL *ART. ONE* CHANCE, ONE *SHOT.*


IF THERE'S A WAY TO STEAL THE *AKUTAHŌ*'S POWER... *INSTRUCT* ME...
STEAL IT. *DESTROY* IT. THAT'S ALL.

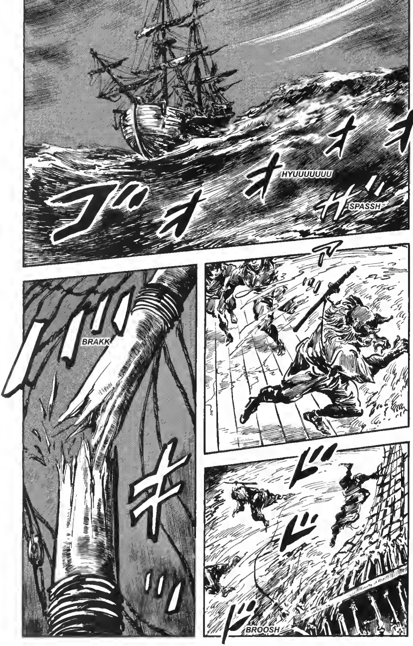

THEY TAKE A *YEAR* TO MAKE. YOU'LL BUY *TIME.*
HRG...
THAT MUCH WE *DUST* CAN DO...
...HAVE WE THE *COURAGE.*
16

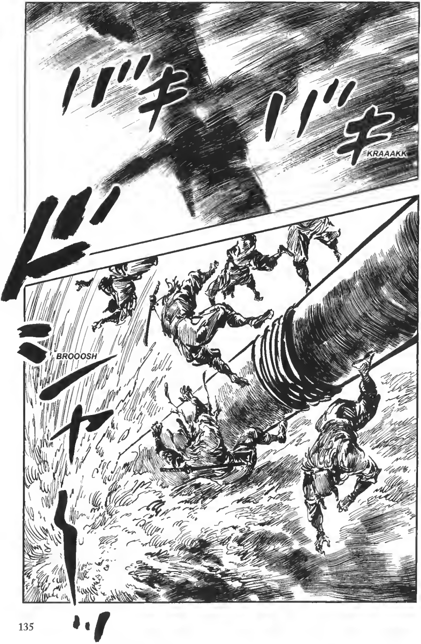


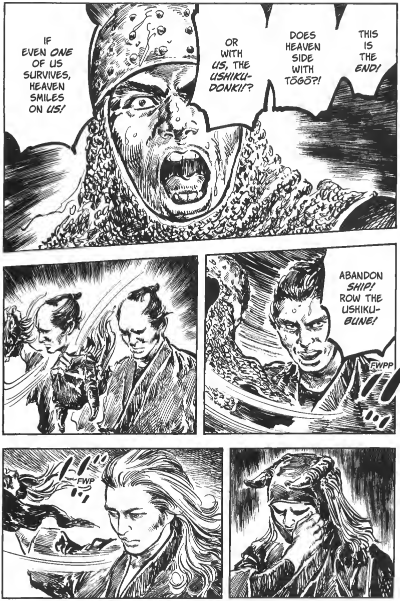
其之六 塵芥の如く（二）

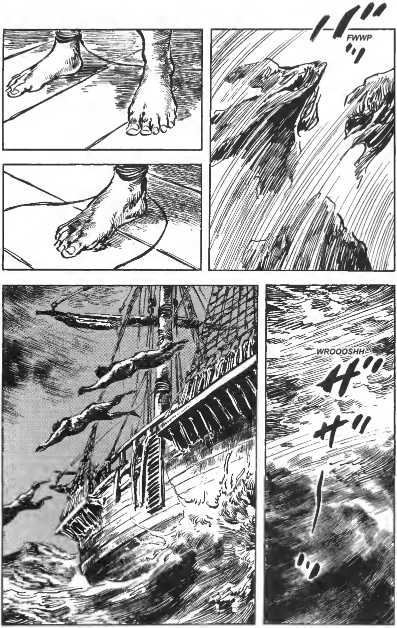
THE SIXTH LIKE DUST UNDERFOOT, PART 2

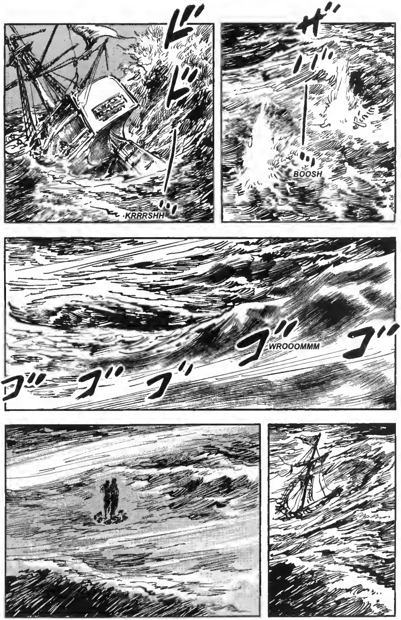
HARD *APOOO-ORT!!*

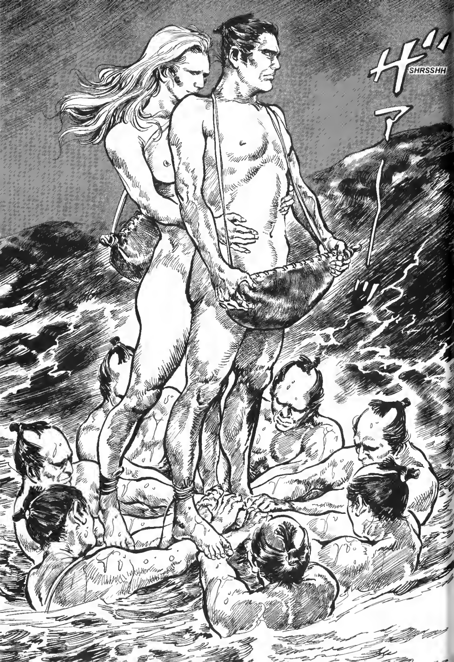

ゴォォォォォ
HYUUUUUUU
SPASSH
BRAKK
ドドド
BROOSH

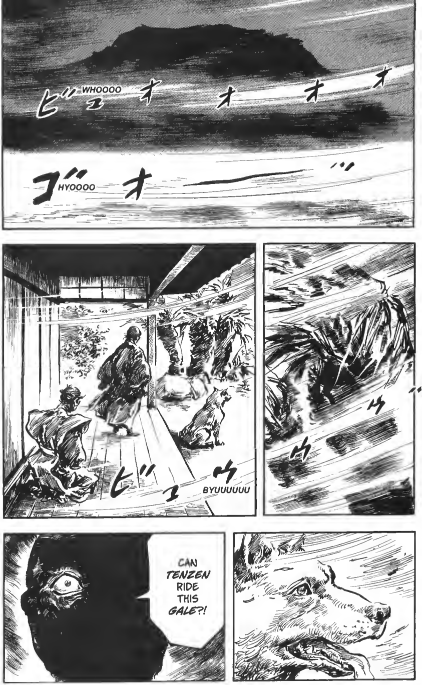

バキ バキ
KRAAAKK
ドシャーッ
BROOOSH

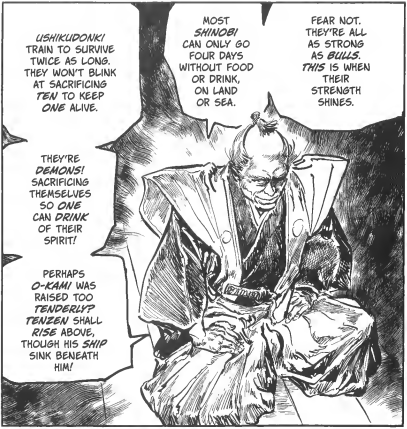

THIS IS THE *END!*
DOES HEAVEN SIDE WITH TŌGŌ?!
OR WITH *US,* THE *USHIKU-DONKI!?*
IF EVEN *ONE* OF US SURVIVES, HEAVEN SMILES ON *US!*
ABANDON *SHIP!* ROW THE USHIKU-*BUNE!*
FWPP
FWP

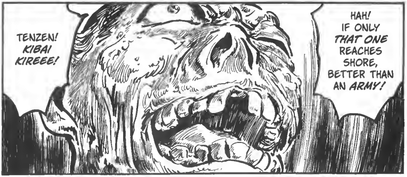

FWWP
WROOOSHH
ザザーッ

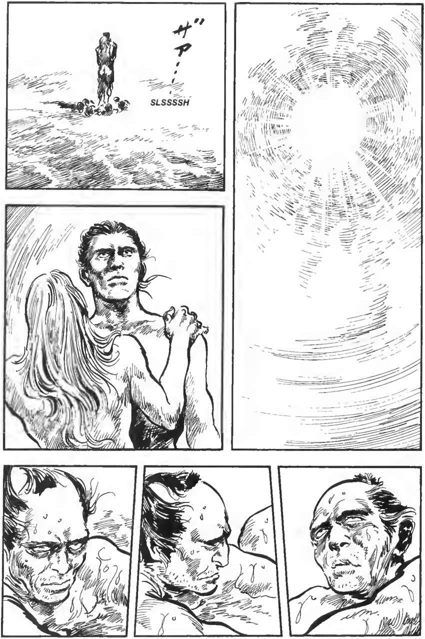

ザザ…
BOOSH
ドド…
KRRRSHH
ゴゴ
WROOOMMM
ゴゴゴ

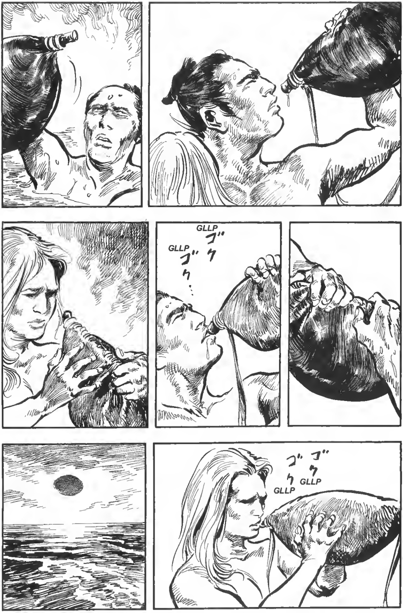

ザァーッ
SHRSSHH

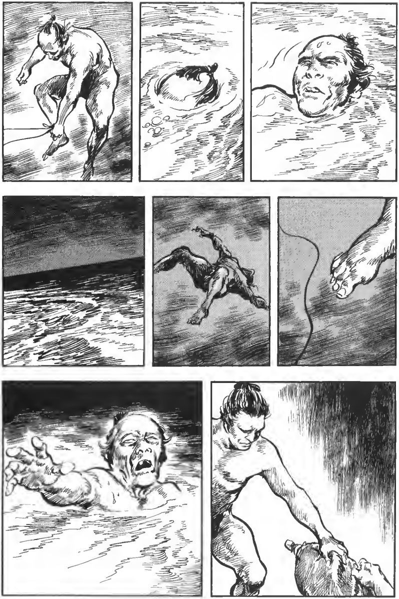

ヒュオオオオ
WHOOOO
ゴオーッ
HYOOOO
ウウッ
ビュウ
BYUUUUUU
CAN TENZEN RIDE THIS GALE?!

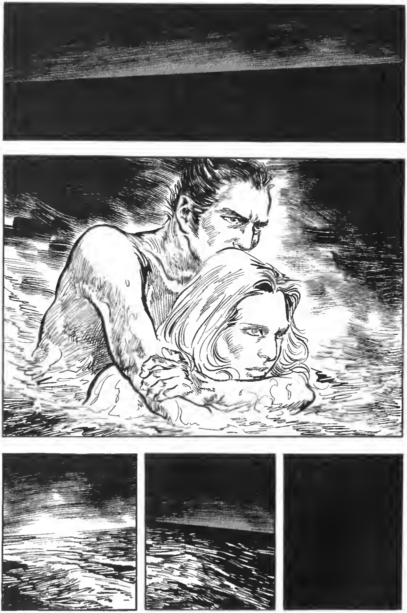

FEAR NOT. THEY'RE ALL AS STRONG AS *BULLS. THIS* IS WHEN THEIR STRENGTH SHINES.
MOST *SHINOBI* CAN ONLY GO FOUR DAYS WITHOUT FOOD OR DRINK, ON LAND OR SEA.
USHIKUDONKI TRAIN TO SURVIVE TWICE AS LONG. THEY WON'T BLINK AT SACRIFICING *TEN* TO KEEP *ONE* ALIVE.
THEY'RE *DEMONS!* SACRIFICING THEMSELVES SO *ONE* CAN *DRINK* OF THEIR SPIRIT!
PERHAPS *O-KAMI* WAS RAISED TOO *TENDERLY? TENZEN* SHALL *RISE* ABOVE, THOUGH HIS *SHIP* SINK BENEATH HIM!

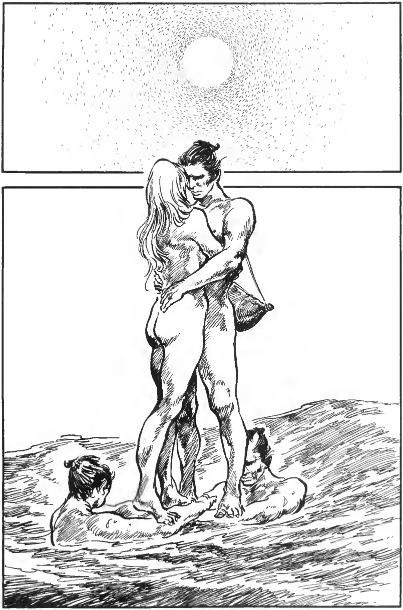

HAH! IF ONLY *THAT ONE* REACHES SHORE, BETTER THAN AN *ARMY!*
TENZEN! *KIBAI KIREEE!*

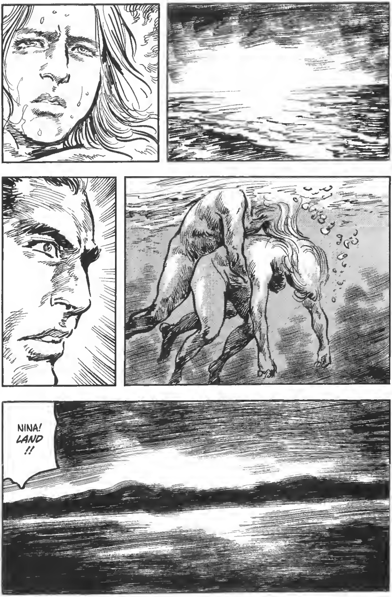

ザァ・・・
SLSSSSH

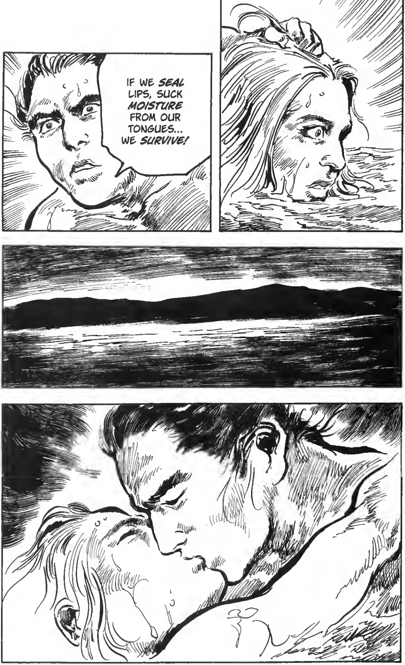

GLLP
ゴク
GLLP
ゴク…
ゴク
ゴク
GLLP
GLLP





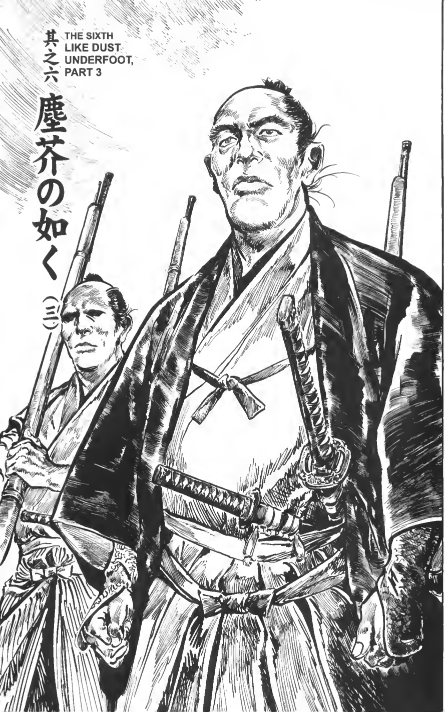


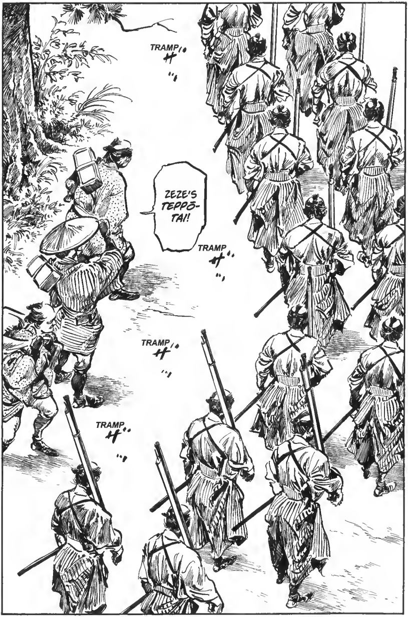

NINA!
LAND
!!

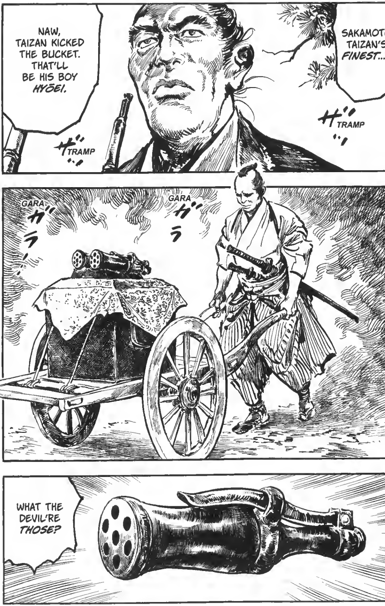

IF WE *SEAL* LIPS, SUCK *MOISTURE* FROM OUR TONGUES... WE *SURVIVE!*

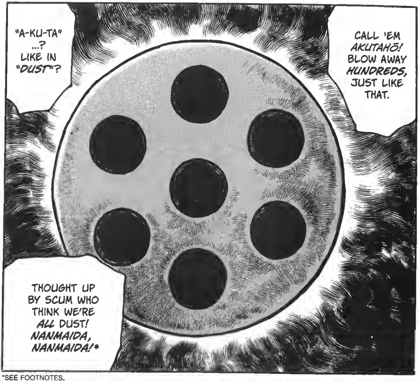
THE SIXTH
LIKE DUST UNDERFOOT, PART 3

其之六
塵芥の如く（三）

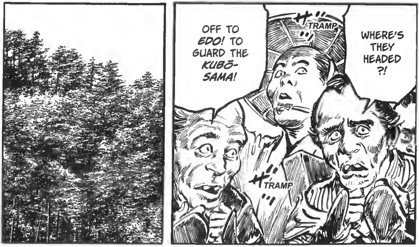


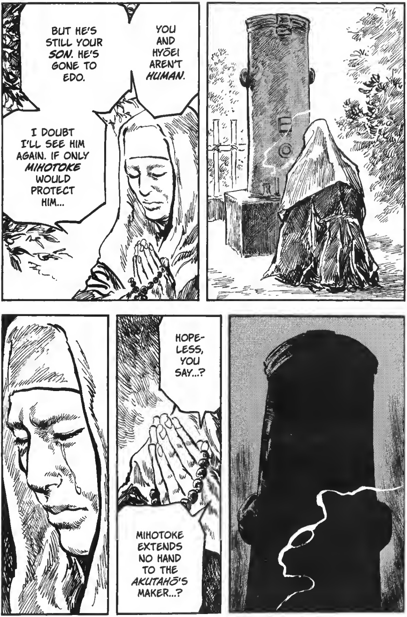

TRAMP
ZEZE'S TEPPŌ-TAI!
TRAMP
TRAMP
TRAMP

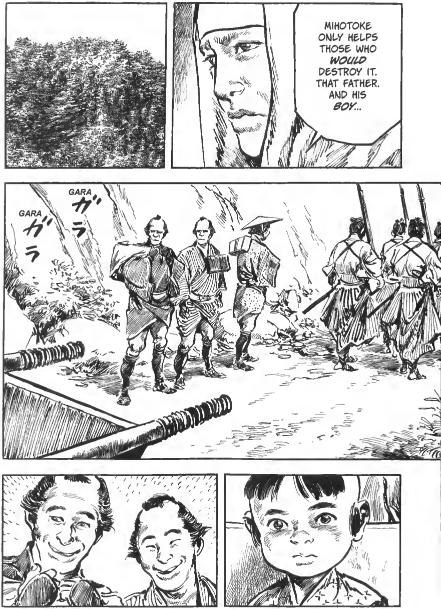

SAKAMOTO TAIZAN'S *FINEST*...?
NAW, TAIZAN KICKED THE BUCKET. THAT'LL BE HIS BOY *HYŌEI.*
ザッ TRAMP
ザッ TRAMP
ガラ GARA
ガラ GARA
WHAT THE DEVIL'RE *THOSE?*

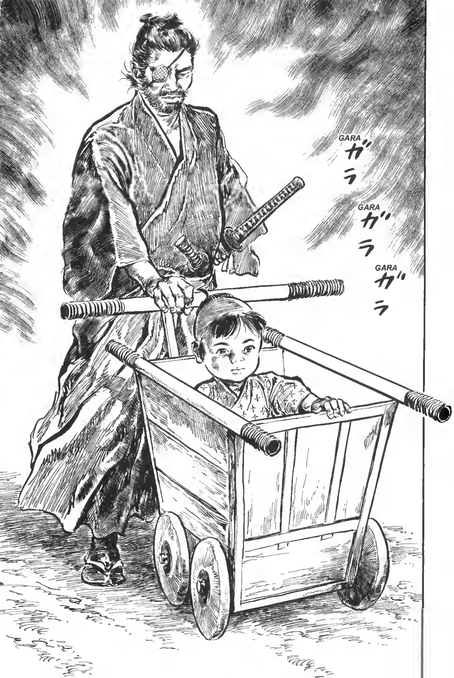

"A-KU-TA" ...? LIKE IN "*DUST*"?
CALL 'EM *AKUTAHŌ!* BLOW AWAY *HUNDREDS*, JUST LIKE THAT.
THOUGHT UP BY SCUM WHO THINK WE'RE *ALL* DUST! *NANMAIDA, NANMAIDA!**

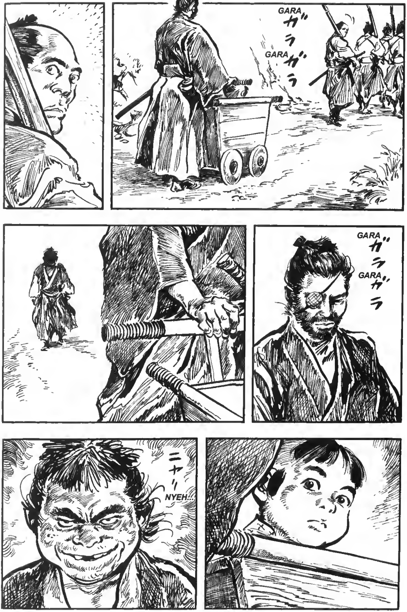
*SEE FOOTNOTES.

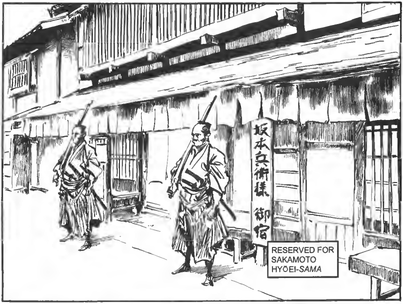

OFF TO *EDO!* TO GUARD THE *KUBŌ-SAMA!*
TRAMP
WHERE'S THEY HEADED ?!
TRAMP

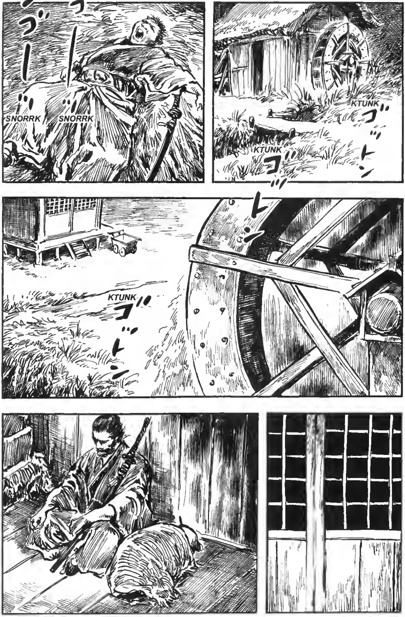

BUT HE'S STILL YOUR *SON*. HE'S GONE TO EDO.
YOU AND HYŌEI AREN'T *HUMAN*.
I DOUBT I'LL SEE HIM AGAIN. IF ONLY *MIHOTOKE* WOULD PROTECT HIM...
HOPELESS, YOU SAY...?
MIHOTOKE EXTENDS NO HAND TO THE *AKUTAHŌ*'S MAKER...?

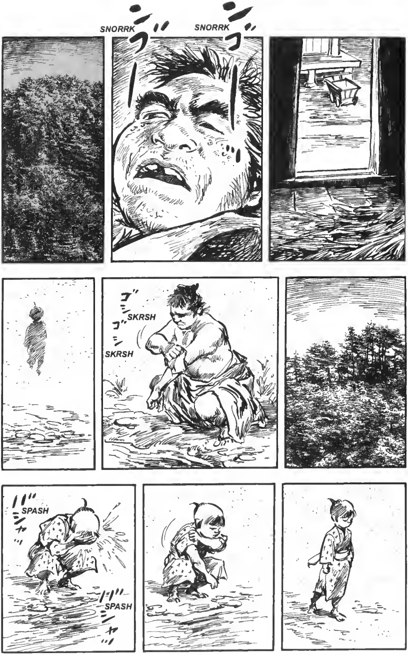

MIHOTOKE ONLY HELPS THOSE WHO *WOULD* DESTROY IT. THAT FATHER. AND HIS *BOY*...
GARA ガラ
GARA ガラ

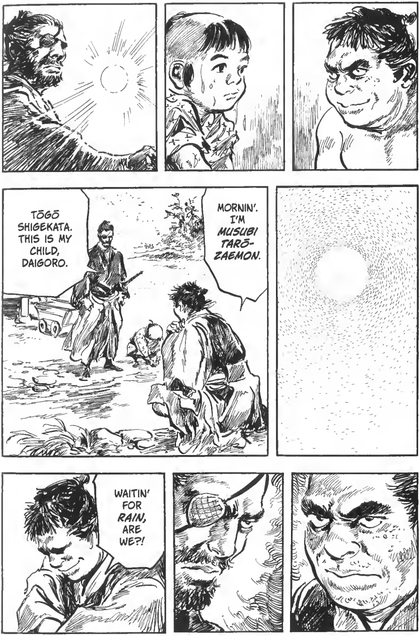

GARA
ガラ
GARA
ガラ
GARA
ガラ

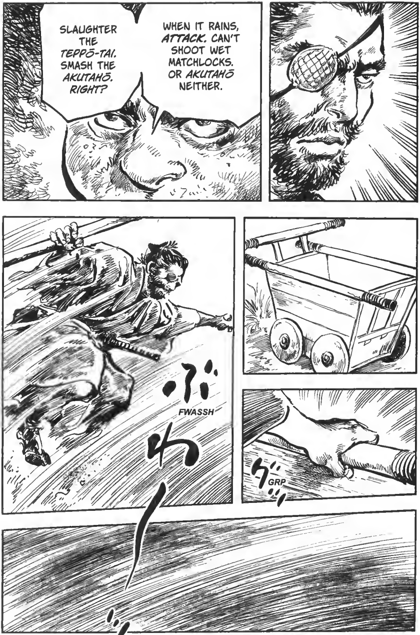

GARA
ガラ
GARA
ガラ
GARA
ガラ
GARA
ガラ
ニヤ!!
NYEH...

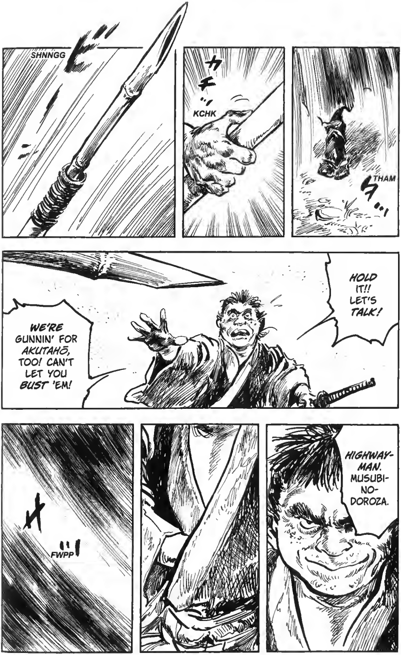

坂本兵衛様御宿
RESERVED FOR SAKAMOTO HYŌEI-*SAMA*

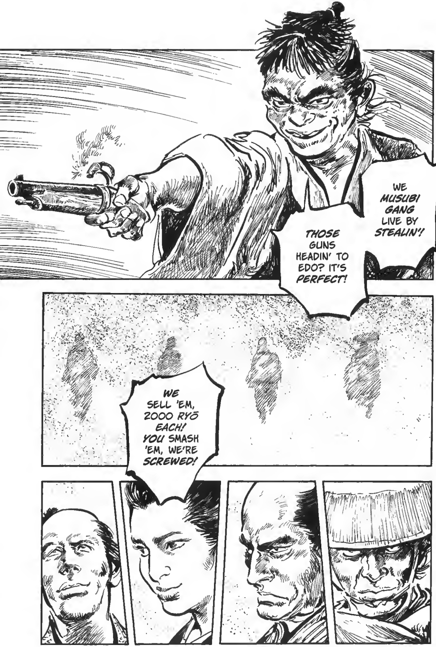

SNORRK
SNORRK
KTUNK
ゴトン
KTUNK
ゴトン
KTUNK
ゴトン

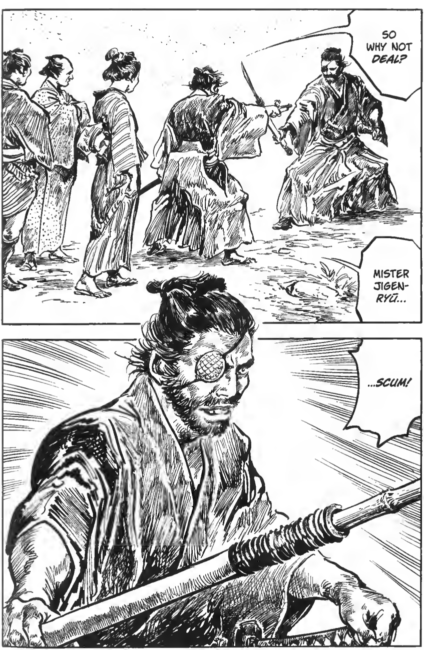

SNORRK
SNORRK
SKRSH
SKRSH
SPASH
SPASH

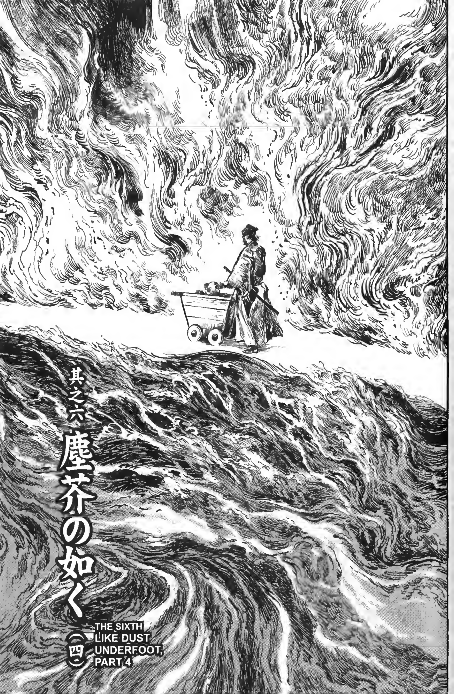

TŌGŌ SHIGEKATA. THIS IS MY CHILD, DAIGORO.
MORNIN'. I'M *MUSUBI TARŌ-ZAEMON.*
WAITIN' FOR *RAIN,* ARE WE?!


SLAUGHTER THE *TEPPŌ-TAI.* SMASH THE *AKUTAHŌ. RIGHT?*
WHEN IT RAINS, *ATTACK.* CAN'T SHOOT WET MATCHLOCKS. OR *AKUTAHŌ* NEITHER.
ぶわっ
FWASSH
グッ
GRP


SHNNGG
カチ
KCHK
THAM
HOLD IT!! LET'S *TALK!*
WE'RE GUNNIN' FOR *AKUTAHŌ,* TOO! CAN'T LET YOU *BUST* 'EM!
FWPP
HIGHWAY-MAN. MUSUBI-NO-DOROZA.

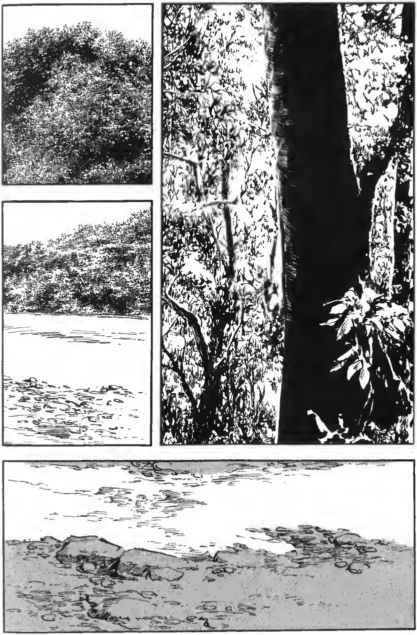

WE *MUSUBI GANG* LIVE BY *STEALIN'!*
THOSE GUNS HEADIN' TO EDO? IT'S *PERFECT!*
WE SELL 'EM, 2000 *RYŌ* *EACH!* *YOU* SMASH 'EM, WE'RE *SCREWED!*

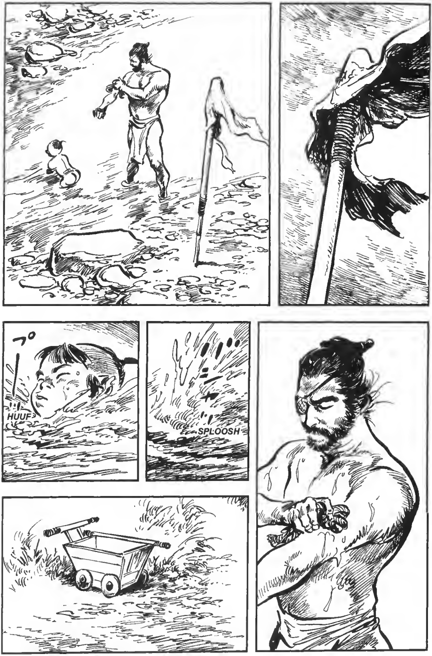

SO WHY NOT *DEAL?*
MISTER JIGEN-*RYŪ...*
...SCUM!

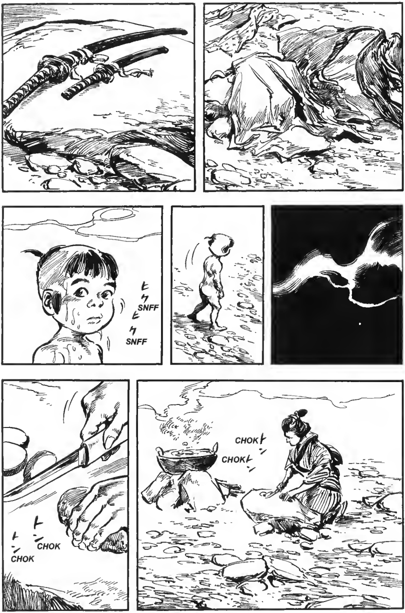


其之六 塵芥の如く（四）

THE SIXTH
LIKE DUST UNDERFOOT, PART 4




プ
HUUF
SPLOOSH


ヒク
SNFF
ヒク
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トン
CHOK
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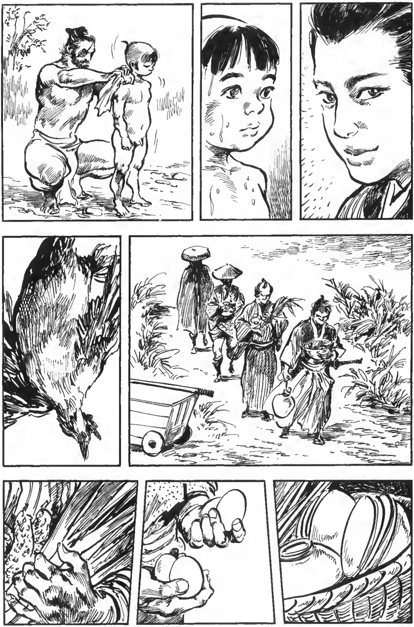
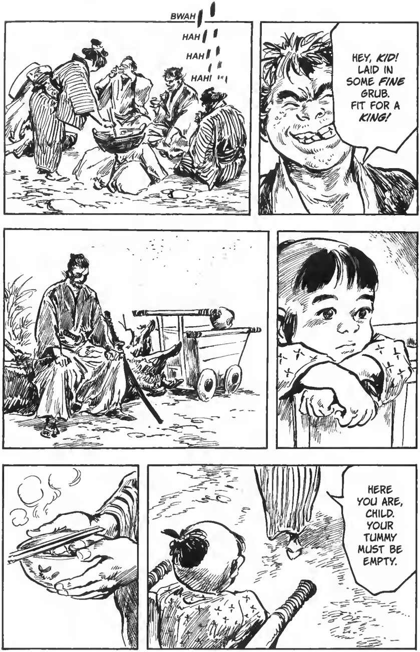
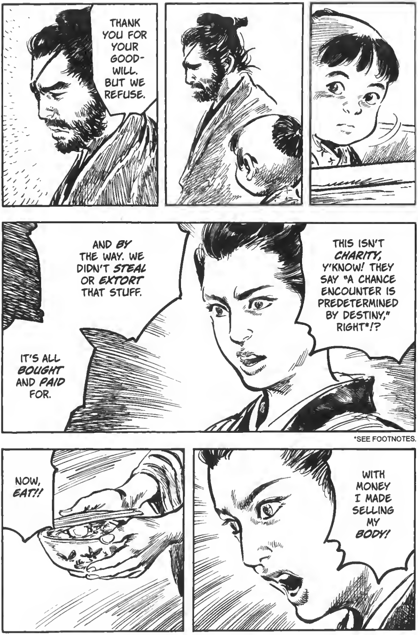
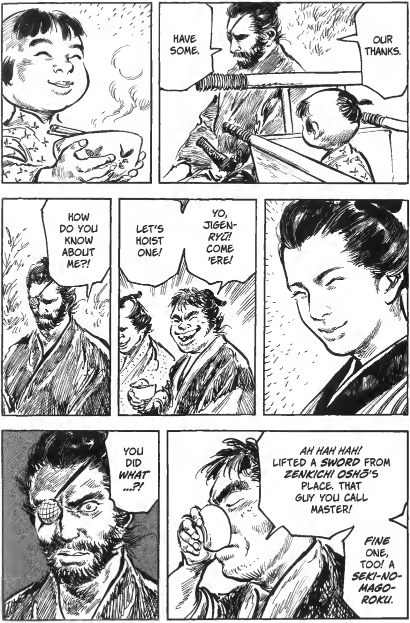
CHOK ト
CHOK ト
ン

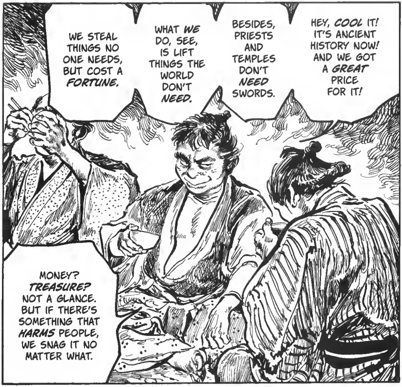


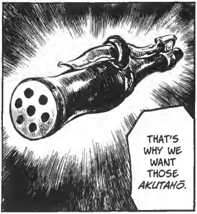

BWAH HAH HAH HAH!
HEY, *KID!* LAID IN SOME *FINE* GRUB. FIT FOR A *KING!*
HERE YOU ARE, CHILD. YOUR TUMMY MUST BE EMPTY.

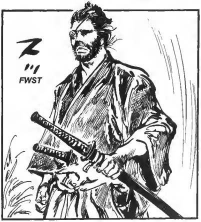

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GOOD-WILL. BUT WE REFUSE.
AND *BY* THE WAY. WE DIDN'T *STEAL* OR *EXTORT* THAT STUFF.
IT'S ALL *BOUGHT* AND *PAID* FOR.
THIS ISN'T *CHARITY,* Y'KNOW! THEY SAY "A CHANCE ENCOUNTER IS PREDETERMINED BY DESTINY," RIGHT*!?
NOW, *EAT!!*
WITH MONEY I MADE SELLING MY *BODY!*

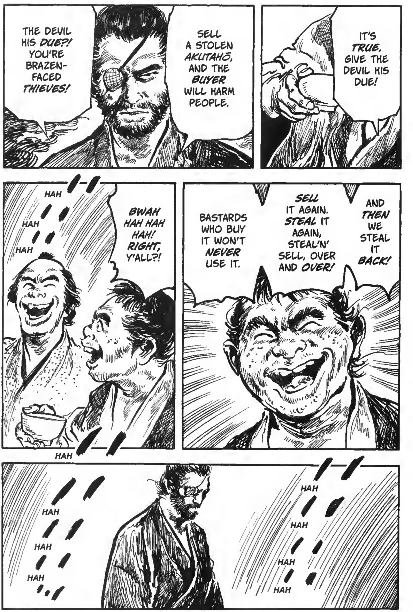
*SEE FOOTNOTES.

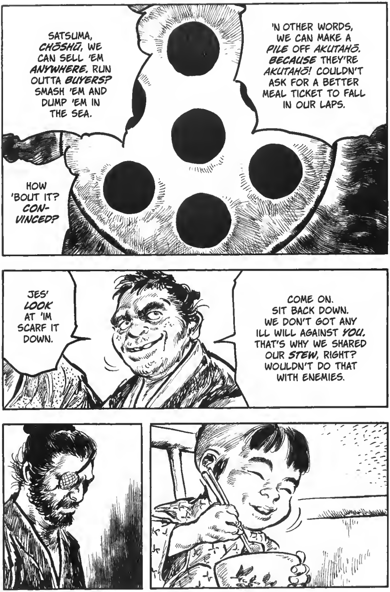

HAVE SOME.
OUR THANKS.
HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ME?!
LET'S HOIST ONE!
YO, JIGEN-*RYŪ!* COME 'ERE!
YOU DID *WHAT ...?!*
AH HAH HAH! LIFTED A *SWORD* FROM *ZENKICHI OSHŌ*'S PLACE. THAT GUY YOU CALL MASTER!
FINE ONE, TOO! A *SEKI-NO-MAGOROKU.*

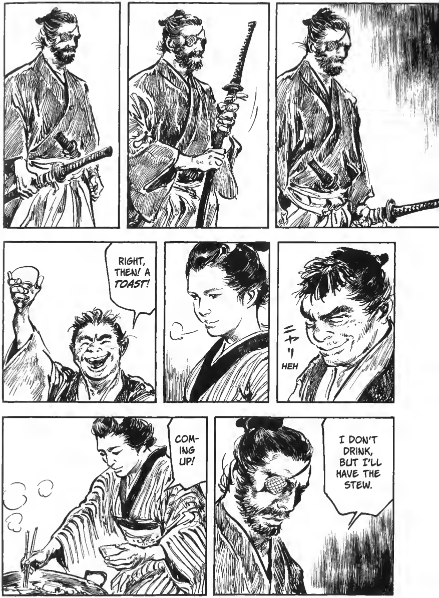

HEY, *COOL* IT! IT'S ANCIENT HISTORY NOW! AND WE GOT A *GREAT* PRICE FOR IT!
BESIDES, PRIESTS AND TEMPLES DON'T *NEED* SWORDS.
WHAT *WE* DO, SEE, IS LIFT THINGS THE WORLD DON'T *NEED.*
WE STEAL THINGS NO ONE NEEDS, BUT COST A *FORTUNE.*
MONEY? *TREASURE?* NOT A GLANCE. BUT IF THERE'S SOMETHING THAT *HARMS* PEOPLE, WE SNAG IT NO MATTER WHAT.

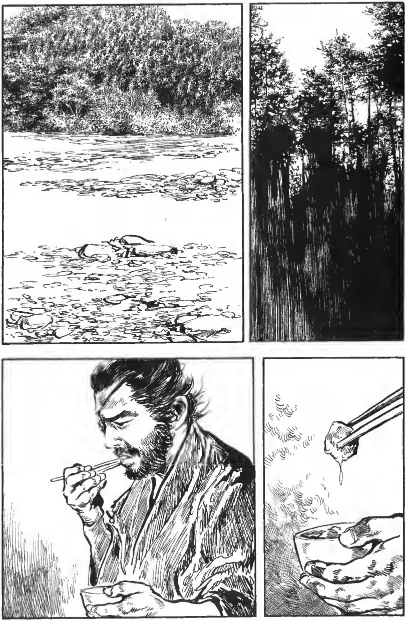

THAT'S WHY WE WANT THOSE *AKUTAHŌ*.

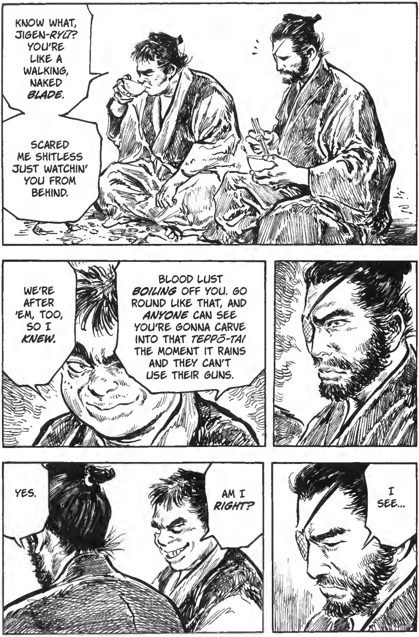

FWST

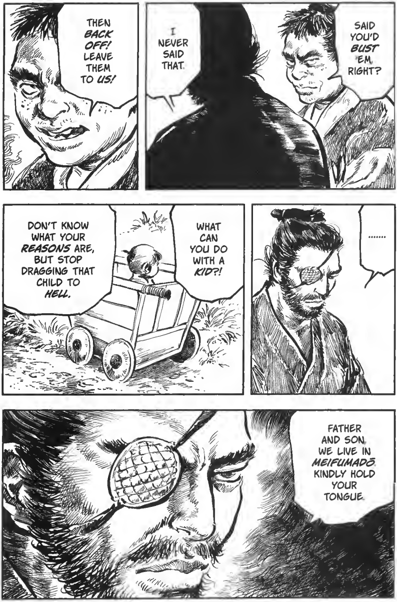

IT'S *TRUE.* GIVE THE DEVIL HIS DUE!
SELL A STOLEN *AKUTAHŌ,* AND THE *BUYER* WILL HARM PEOPLE.
THE DEVIL HIS *DUE?!* YOU'RE BRAZEN-FACED *THIEVES!*
AND *THEN* WE STEAL IT *BACK!*
SELL IT AGAIN. *STEAL* IT AGAIN, STEAL'N' SELL, OVER AND *OVER!*
BASTARDS WHO BUY IT WON'T *NEVER* USE IT.
BWAH HAH HAH HAH! RIGHT, Y'ALL?!
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH

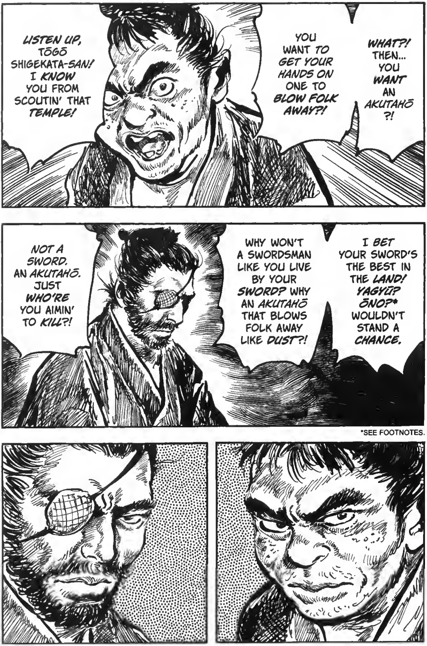

SATSUMA, *CHŌSHŪ*, WE CAN SELL 'EM *ANYWHERE.* RUN OUTTA *BUYERS?* SMASH 'EM AND DUMP 'EM IN THE SEA.
'N OTHER WORDS, WE CAN MAKE A *PILE* OFF *AKUTAHŌ*. *BECAUSE* THEY'RE *AKUTAHŌ!* COULDN'T ASK FOR A BETTER MEAL TICKET TO FALL IN OUR LAPS.
HOW 'BOUT IT? *CONVINCED?*
JES' *LOOK* AT 'IM SCARF IT DOWN.
COME ON. SIT BACK DOWN. WE DON'T GOT ANY ILL WILL AGAINST *YOU.* THAT'S WHY WE SHARED OUR *STEW*, RIGHT? WOULDN'T DO THAT WITH ENEMIES.


RIGHT, THEN! A *TOAST!*
ニヤリ
HEH
COM-ING UP!
I DON'T DRINK, BUT I'LL HAVE THE STEW.




KNOW WHAT, JIGEN-*RYŪ?* YOU'RE LIKE A WALKING, NAKED *BLADE*.
SCARED ME SHITLESS JUST WATCHIN' YOU FROM BEHIND.
BLOOD LUST *BOILING* OFF YOU. GO ROUND LIKE THAT, AND *ANYONE* CAN SEE YOU'RE GONNA CARVE INTO THAT *TEPPŌ-TAI* THE MOMENT IT RAINS AND THEY CAN'T USE THEIR GUNS.
WE'RE AFTER 'EM, TOO, SO I *KNEW.*
AM I *RIGHT?*
YES.
I SEE...


THEN *BACK OFF!* LEAVE THEM TO *US!*
SAID YOU'D *BUST* 'EM RIGHT?
I NEVER SAID THAT.
DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR *REASONS* ARE, BUT STOP DRAGGING THAT CHILD TO *HELL.*
WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A *KID?!*
....
FATHER AND SON. WE LIVE IN *MEIFUMADŌ.* KINDLY HOLD YOUR TONGUE.

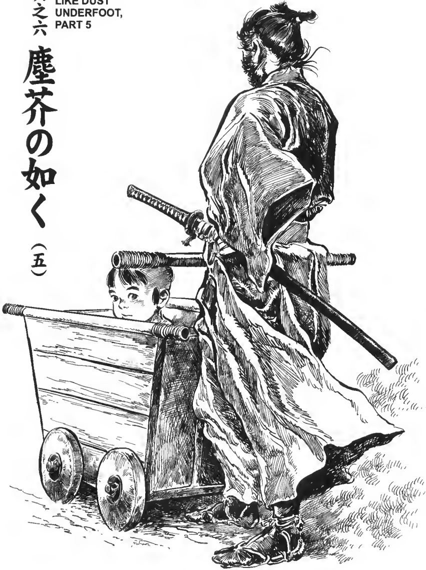

LISTEN UP, TŌGŌ SHIGEKATA-SAN! I KNOW YOU FROM SCOUTIN' THAT TEMPLE!
YOU WANT TO GET YOUR HANDS ON ONE TO BLOW FOLK AWAY?!
WHAT?! THEN... YOU WANT AN AKUTAHŌ ?!
NOT A SWORD. AN AKUTAHŌ. JUST WHO'RE YOU AIMIN' TO KILL?!
WHY WON'T A SWORDSMAN LIKE YOU LIVE BY YOUR SWORD? WHY AN AKUTAHŌ THAT BLOWS FOLK AWAY LIKE DUST?!
I BET YOUR SWORD'S THE BEST IN THE LAND! YAGYŪ? ŌNO?* WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE.

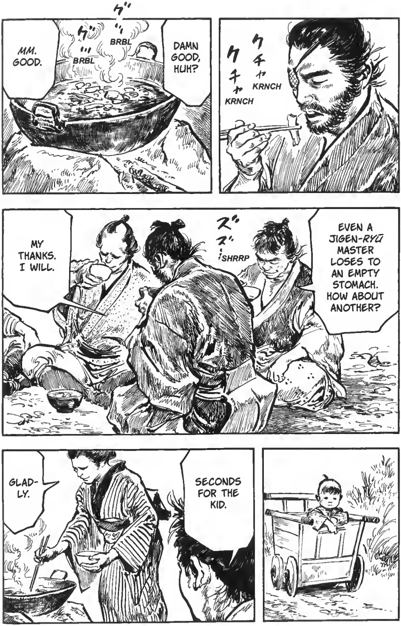
*SEE FOOTNOTES.

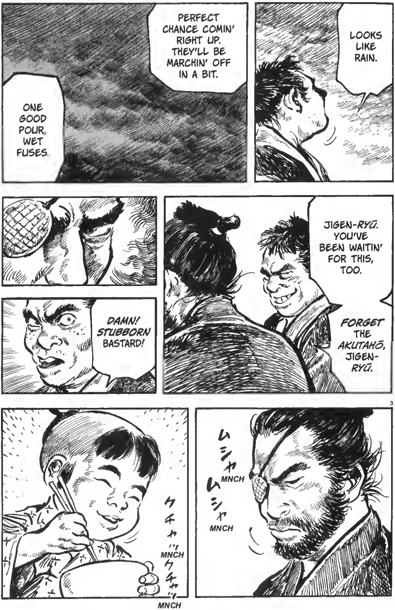
其之六 THE SIXTH

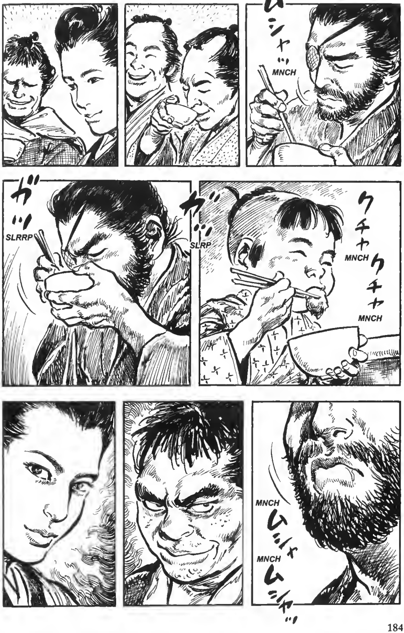
LIKE DUST UNDERFOOT, PART 5

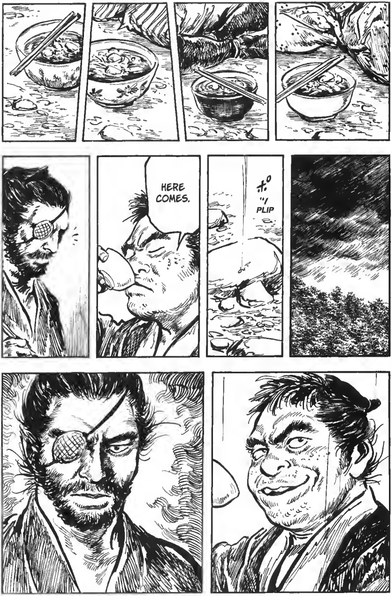
塵芥の如く（五）

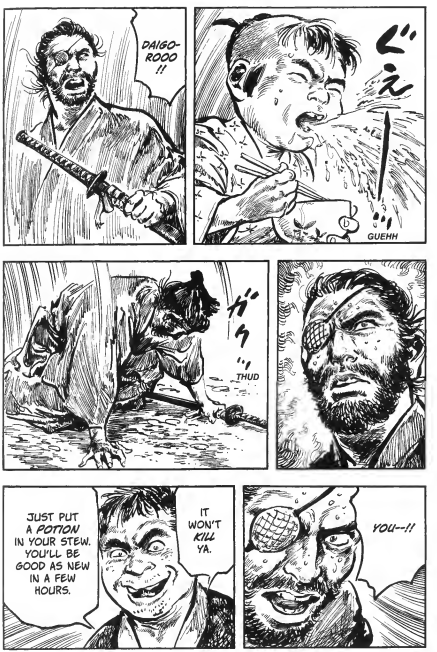


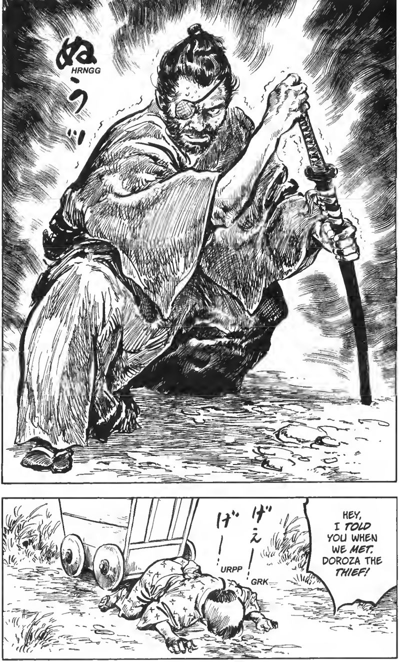

DAMN GOOD, HUH?
ゲ゛ゲ゛
BRBL
BRBL
MM. GOOD.
クチャ
KRNCH
クチャ
KRNCH
EVEN A JIGEN-*RYŪ* MASTER LOSES TO AN EMPTY STOMACH. HOW ABOUT ANOTHER?
ズズ
SHRRP
MY THANKS. I WILL.
SECONDS FOR THE KID.
GLADLY.

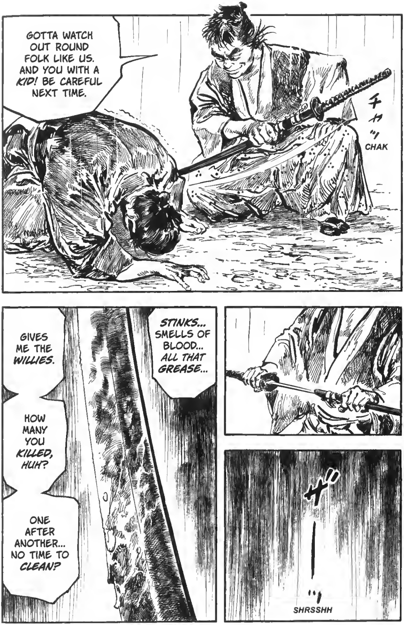

PERFECT CHANCE COMIN' RIGHT UP. THEY'LL BE MARCHIN' OFF IN A BIT.
ONE GOOD POUR, WET FUSES.
LOOKS LIKE RAIN.
DAMN! STUBBORN BASTARD!
JIGEN-*RYŪ*. YOU'VE BEEN WAITIN' FOR THIS, TOO.
FORGET THE *AKUTAHŌ*, JIGEN-*RYŪ*.
クチャ MNCH
クチャ MNCH
ムシャ MNCH
ムシャ MNCH

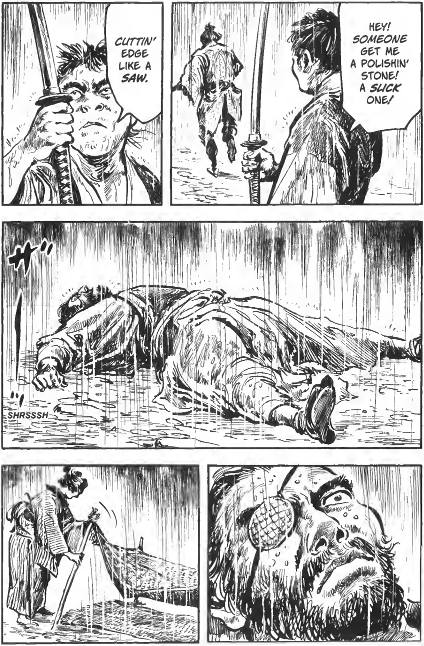

ムシャッ
MNCH
クチャ
MNCH
クチャ
MNCH
ガッ
SLRP
ガッ
SLRRP
MNCH
ムシャ
MNCH
ムシャッ

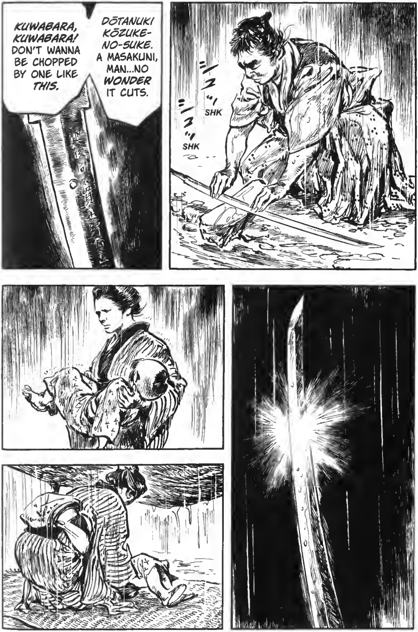

HERE COMES.
PLIP

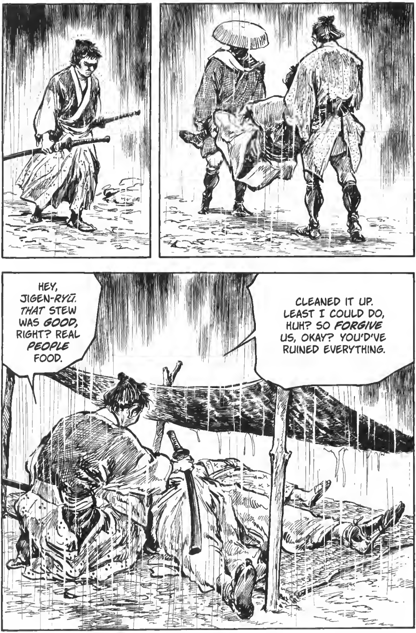

DAIGO-ROOO!!
ぐえー!
GUEHH
ガク
THUD
JUST PUT A *POTION* IN YOUR STEW. YOU'LL BE GOOD AS NEW IN A FEW HOURS.
IT WON'T *KILL* YA.
YOU--!!

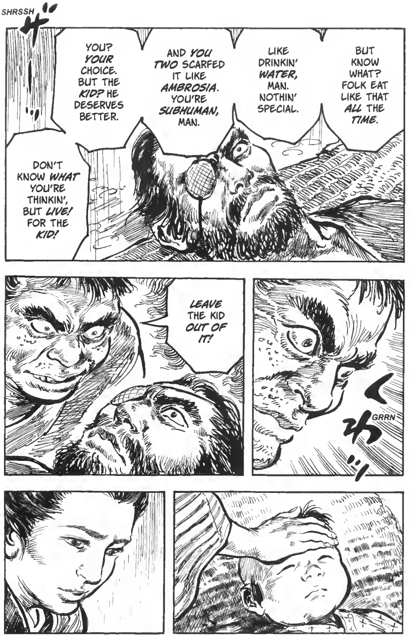

ぬうッ
HRNGG
HEY, I *TOLD* YOU WHEN WE *MET*. DOROZA THE *THIEF!*
げえ
GRK
げ
URPP

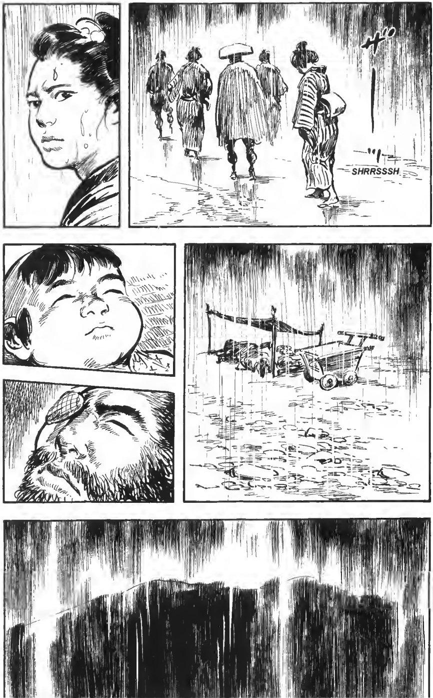

GOTTA WATCH OUT ROUND FOLK LIKE US. AND YOU WITH A *KID!* BE CAREFUL NEXT TIME.
チャッ
CHAK
STINKS... SMELLS OF BLOOD... *ALL THAT GREASE...*
GIVES ME THE *WILLIES.*
HOW MANY YOU *KILLED, HUH?*
ONE AFTER ANOTHER... NO TIME TO *CLEAN?*
ザッ
SHRSSHH

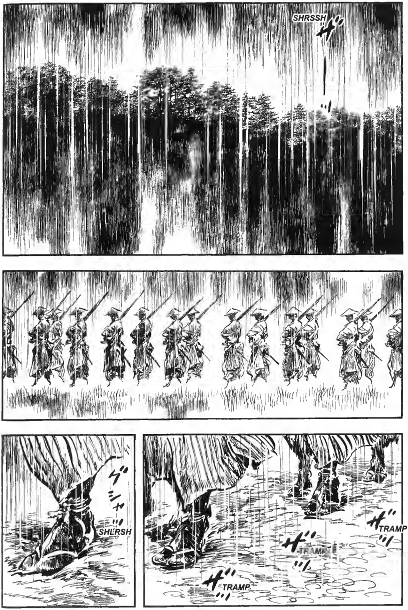

CUTTIN' EDGE LIKE A SAW.
HEY! SOMEONE GET ME A POLISHIN' STONE! A SLICK ONE!
ザー
SHRSSSH

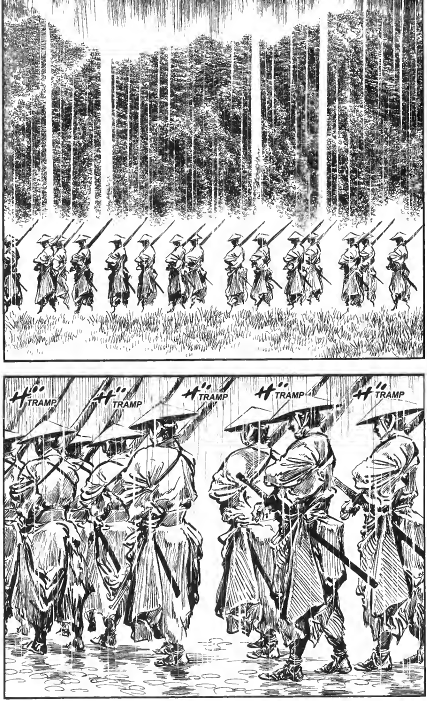

KUWABARA, KUWABARA! DON'T WANNA BE CHOPPED BY ONE LIKE THIS.
DŌTANUKI KŌZUKE-NO-SUKE. A MASAKUNI, MAN...NO WONDER IT CUTS.
SHK
SHK


HEY, JIGEN-*RYŪ*. *THAT* STEW WAS *GOOD*, RIGHT? REAL *PEOPLE* FOOD.
CLEANED IT UP. LEAST I COULD DO, HUH? SO *FORGIVE* US, OKAY? YOU'D'VE RUINED EVERYTHING.


SHRSSH
BUT KNOW WHAT? FOLK EAT LIKE THAT *ALL* THE *TIME*.
LIKE DRINKIN' *WATER*, MAN. NOTHIN' SPECIAL.
AND *YOU TWO* SCARFED IT LIKE *AMBROSIA*. YOU'RE *SUBHUMAN*, MAN.
YOU? *YOUR* CHOICE. BUT THE *KID?* HE DESERVES BETTER.
DON'T KNOW *WHAT* YOU'RE THINKIN', BUT *LIVE!* FOR THE *KID!*
GRRN
LEAVE THE KID *OUT OF IT!*


SHRRSSSH


SHRSSH
ザーッ
ザシャッ
SHLRSH
ザッ
TRAMP
ザッ
TRAMP
ザッ
TRAMP


TRAMP
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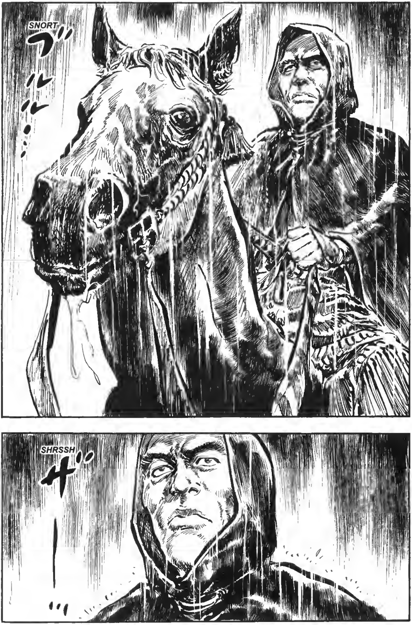
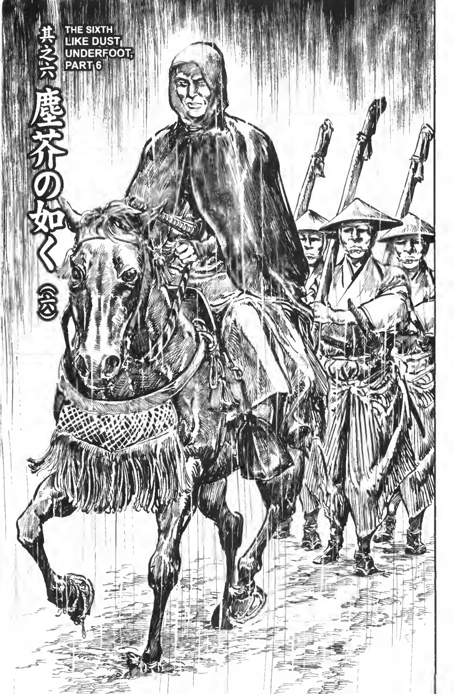
TRAMP


SNORT
ブルル…
SHRSSH
ザー…

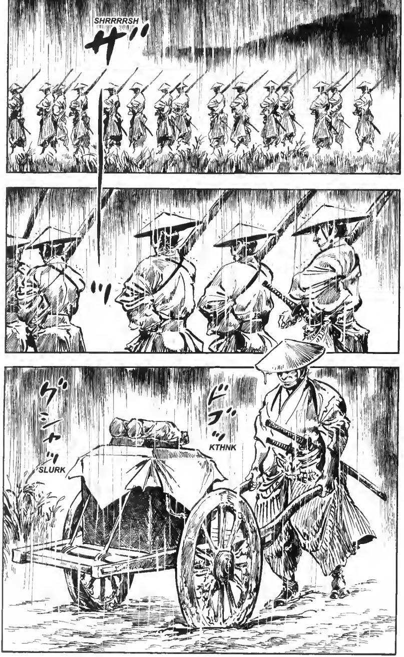


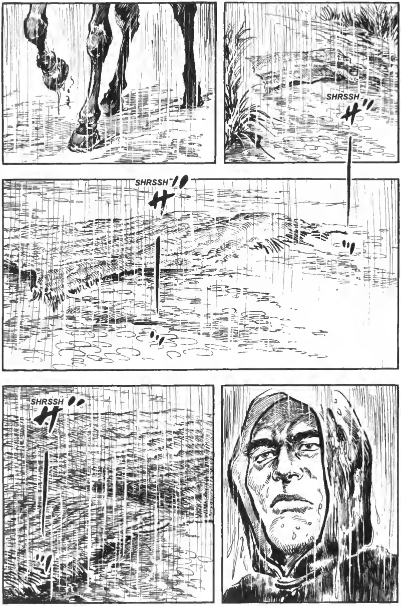
其之六

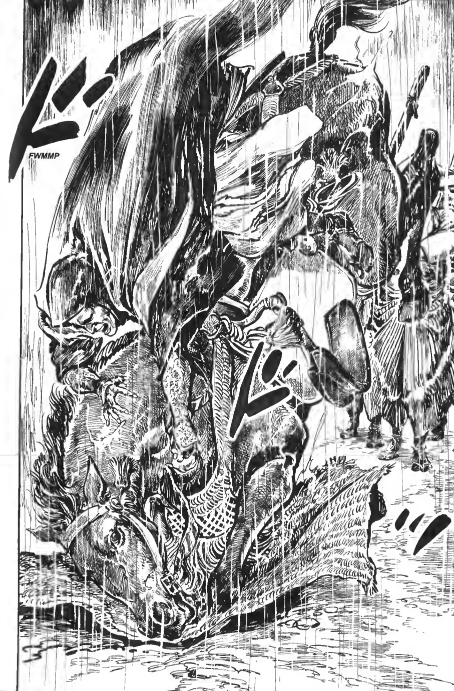
塵芥の如く（六）

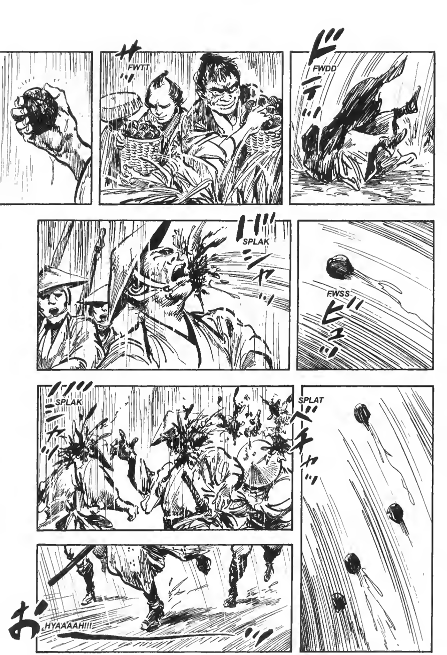
THE SIXTH

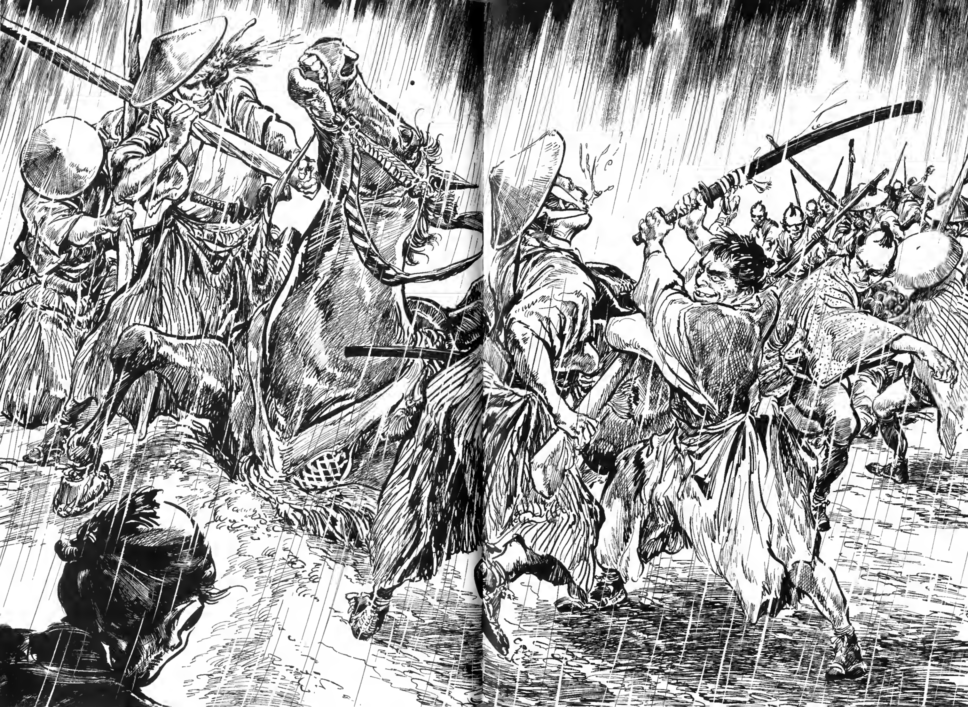
LIKE DUST UNDERFOOT, PART 6

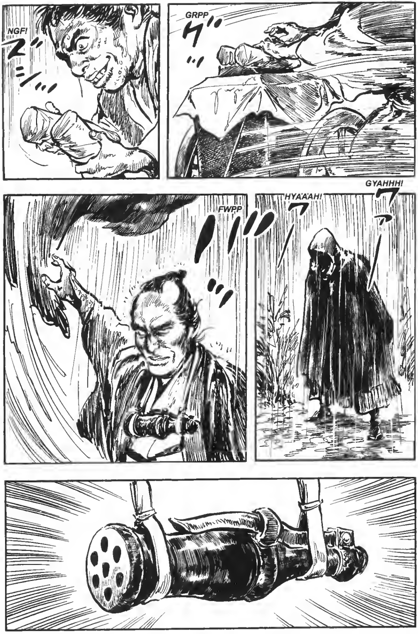

SHRRRRSH
ザッ
ドブッ
KTHNK
グシャッ
SLURK

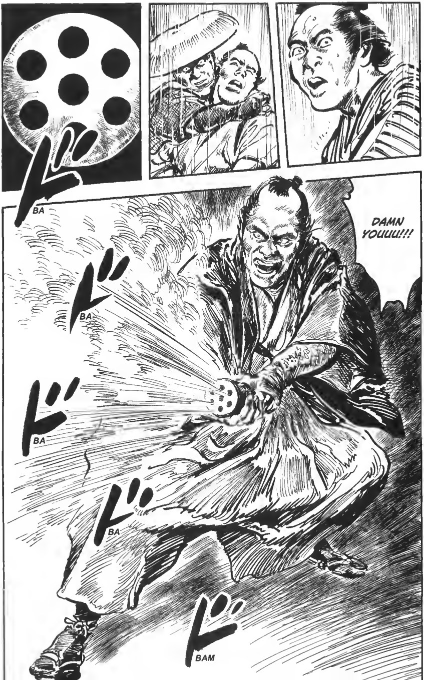

SHRSSH
SHRSSH
SHRSSH

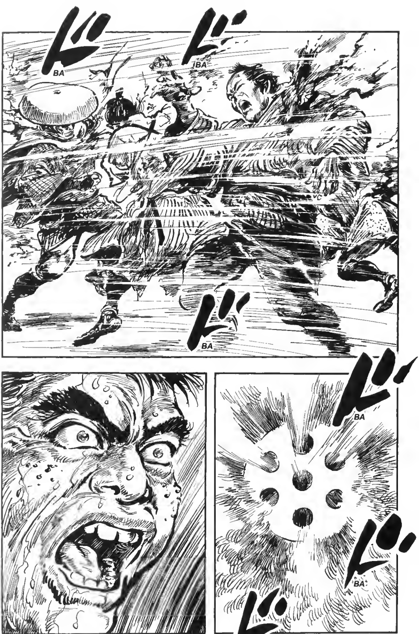

ド
FWMMP
ド
ッ


ドテ…
FWDD
ザッ
FWTT
ビュッ
FWSS
バシャッ
SPLAK
ベチャッ
SPLAT
バシャッ
SPLAK
おッ
HYAAAAH!!!




NGF!
GRPP
FWPP
HYAAAH!
GYAHHH!


ド BA
DAMN YOUUU!!!
ド BA
ド BA
ド BA
ド BAM


ド
BA
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BA
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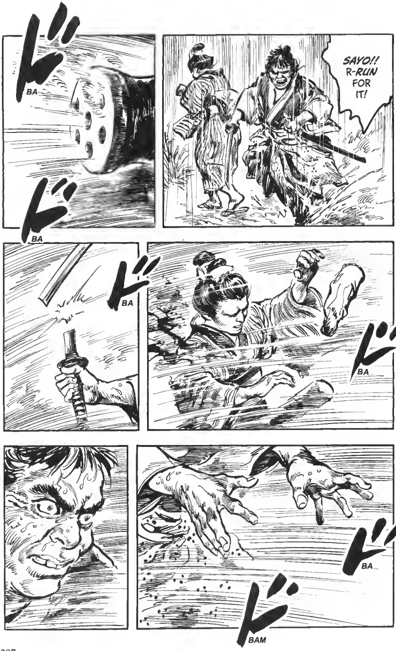
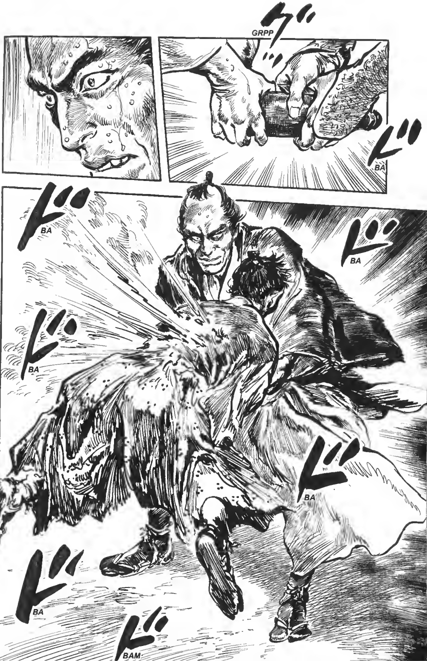
BA
ド
BAM


SAYO!! R-RUN FOR IT!
ドド
BA
ドド
BA
ド
BA
ド
BA
ド
BA
ド
BAM


グ
GRPP
ド
BA
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BA
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BA
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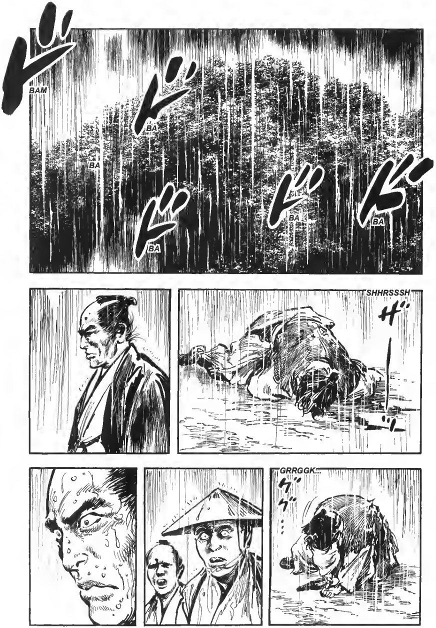
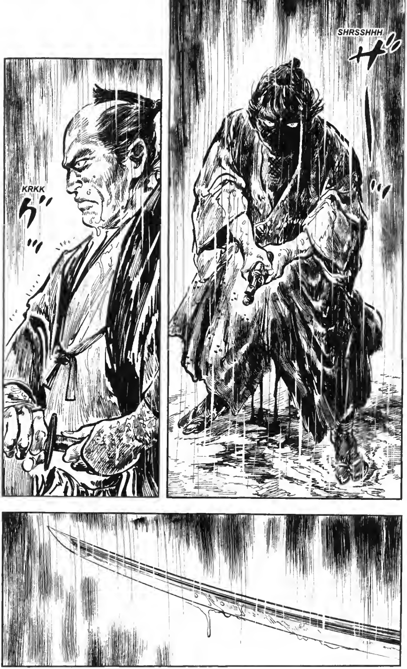
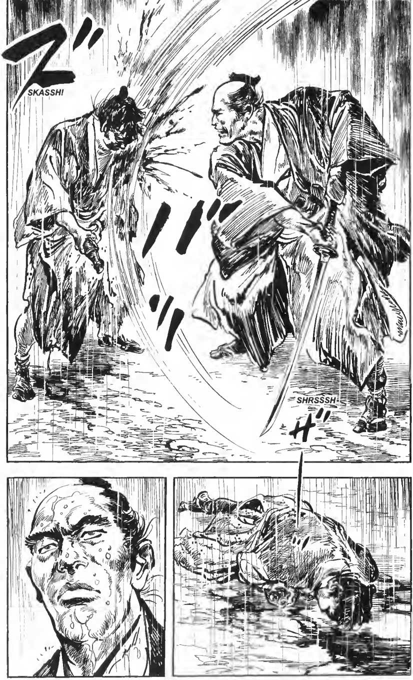
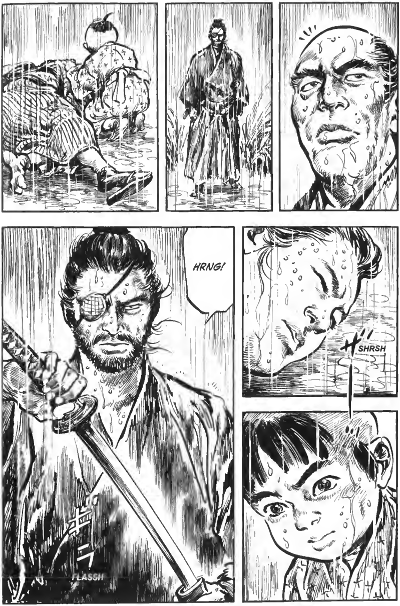
ド
BAM


BAM
BA
BA
BA
BA
BA
SHHRSSSH
GRRGGK...


SHRSSHHH
KRKK


SKASSH!
SHRSSSH

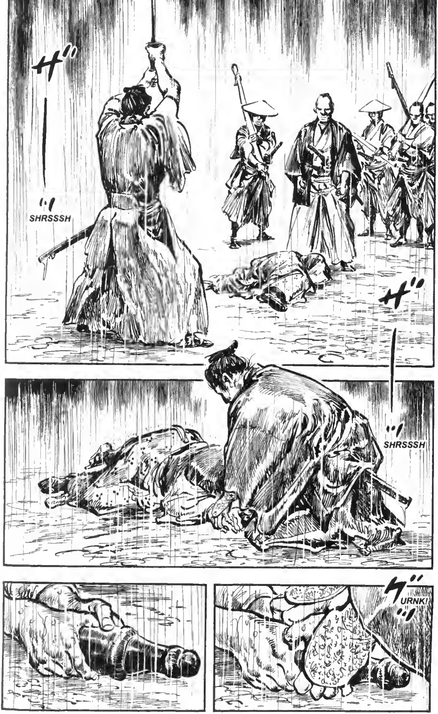

HRNG!
ギラ
FLASSH
SHRSH

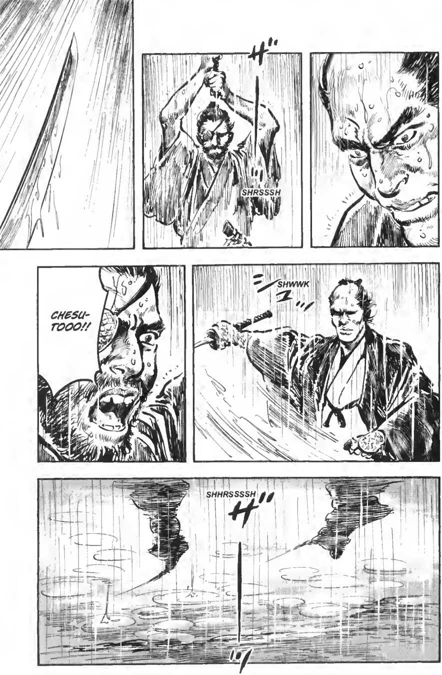
其之六

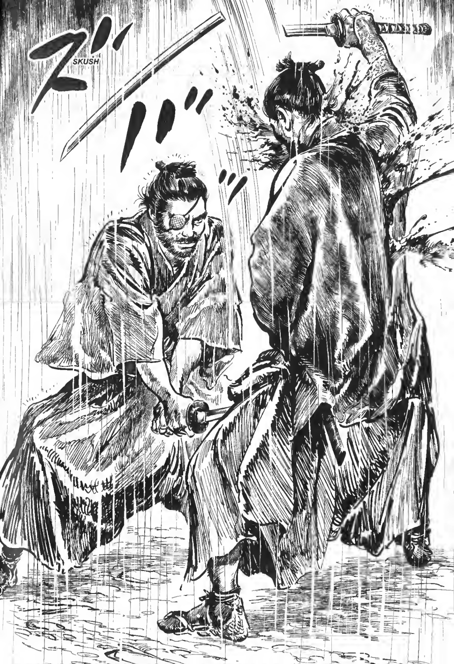
塵芥の如く（七）

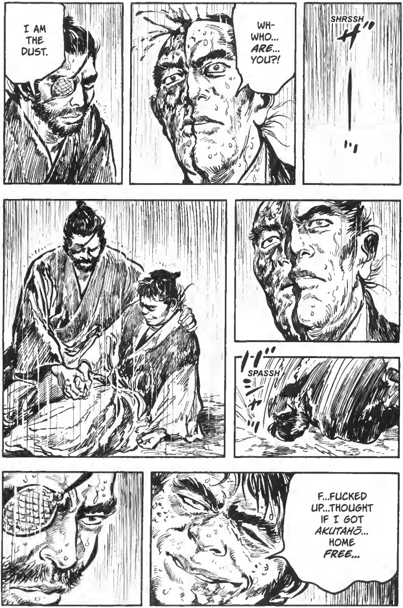
THE SIXTH

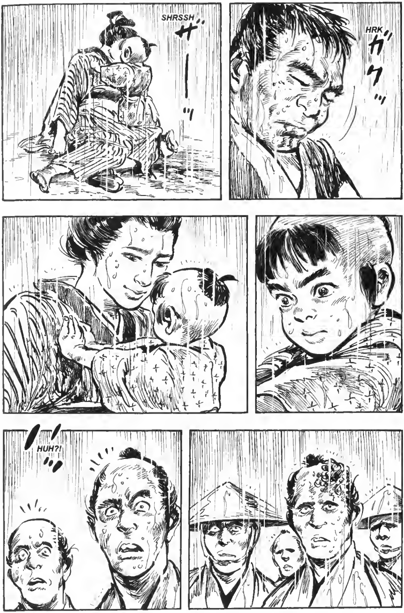
LIKE DUST UNDERFOOT, PART 7

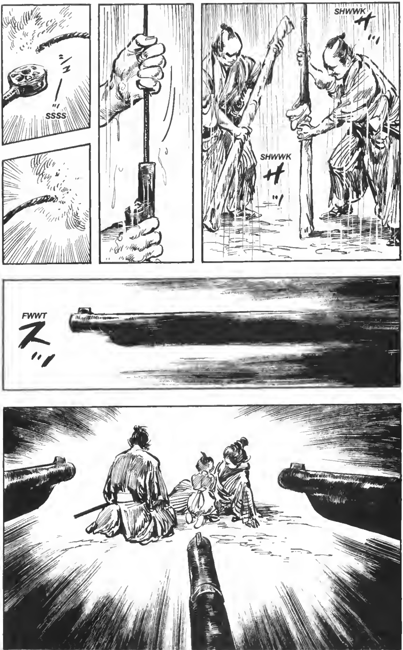

ザー
SHRSSSH
ザー
SHRSSSH
グッ
URNK!

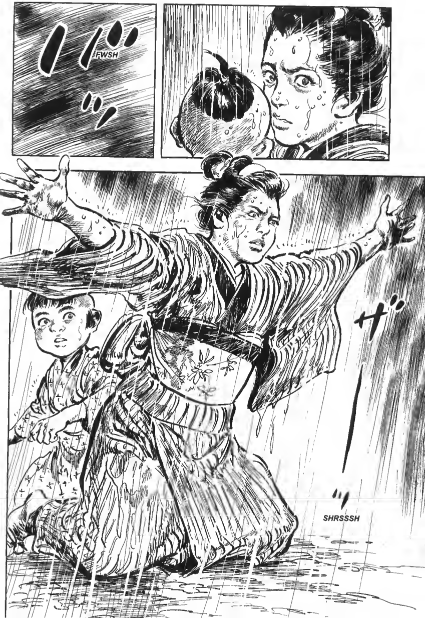

SHRSSSH
CHESU-TOOO!!
SHWWK
SHHRSSSSH

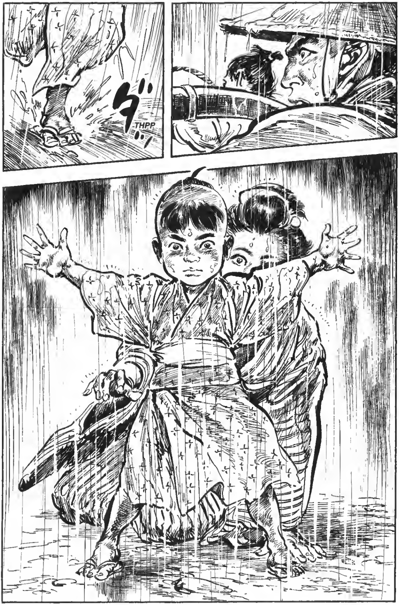

ズバッ
SKUSH

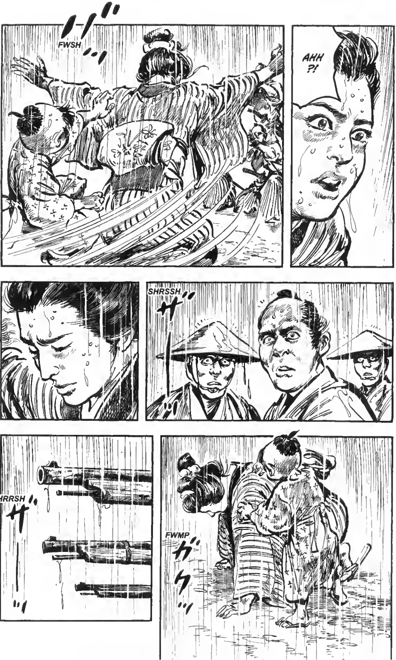

SHRSSH
WH- WHO... *ARE*... YOU?!
I AM THE DUST.
SPASSH
F...FUCKED UP...THOUGHT IF I GOT *AKUTAHŌ*... HOME *FREE*...

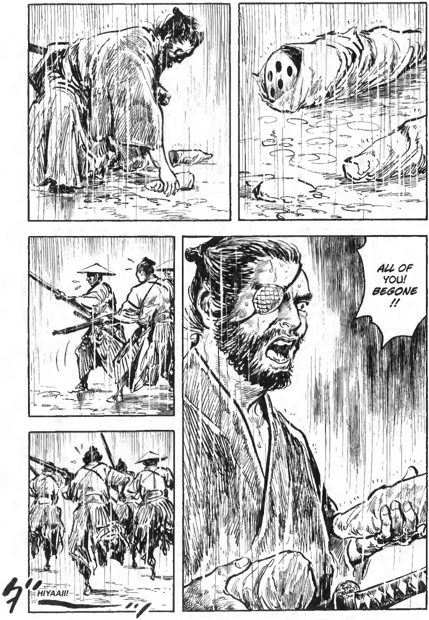

HRK
ガクッ
SHRSSH
ザーッ
HUH?!

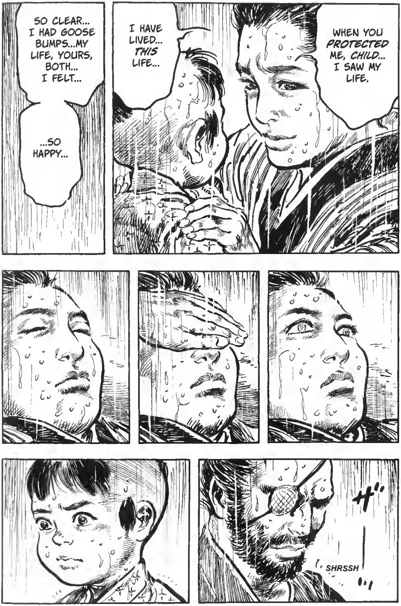

SHWWK サッ
SHWWK サッ
SSSS シューッ
FWWT スッ

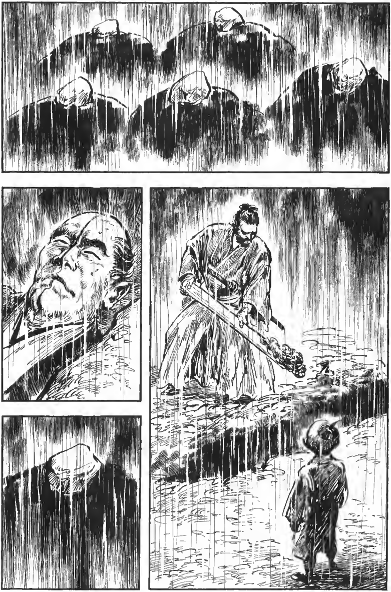

FWSH
ザ
SHRSSSH

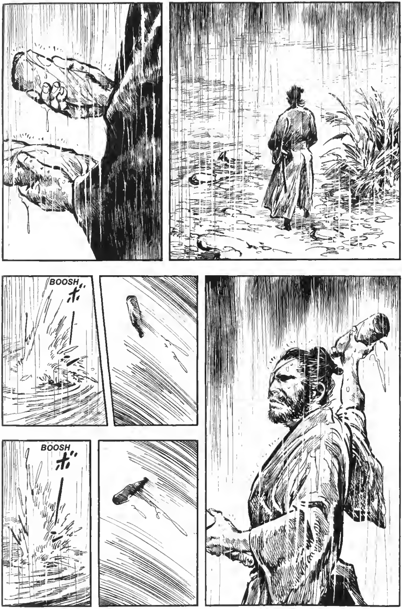

ダ
THPP

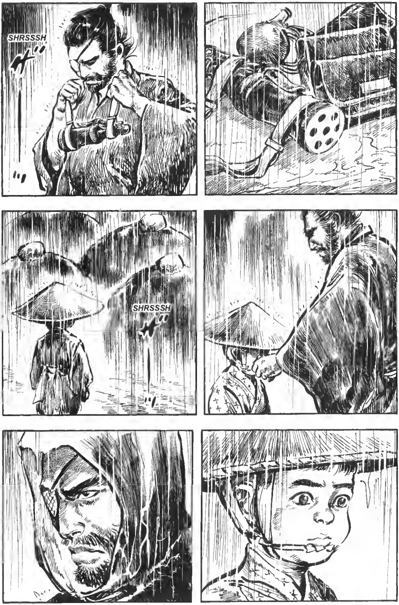

AHH ?!
FWSH
SHRSSH
FWMP
SHRRSH

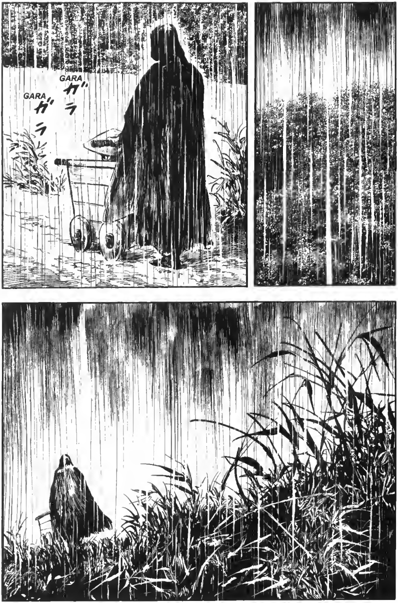

ALL OF YOU! BEGONE !!
HIYAAII!
グーッ

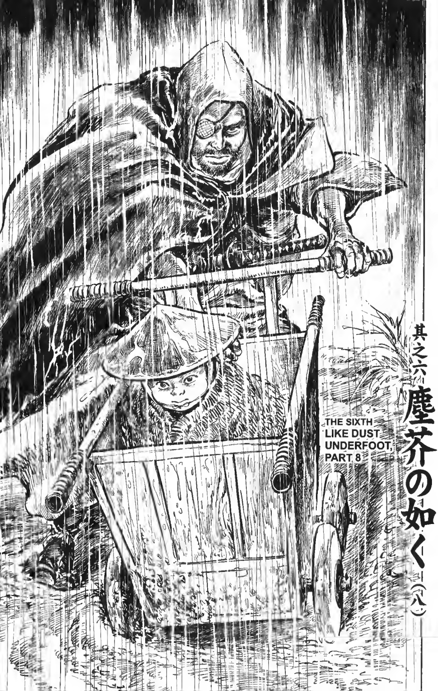

WHEN YOU *PROTECTED* ME, *CHILD*... I SAW MY LIFE.
I HAVE LIVED... *THIS* LIFE...
SO CLEAR... I HAD GOOSE BUMPS...MY LIFE, YOURS, BOTH... I FELT...
...SO HAPPY...
SHRSSH




BOOSH
ボ
BOOSH
ボ


SHRSSSH
SHRSSSH


GARA ガラ
GARA ガラ

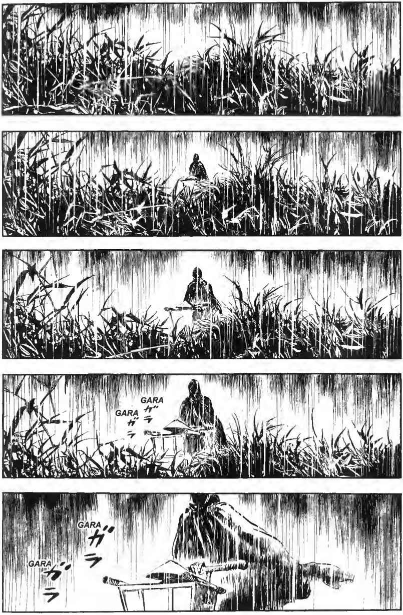


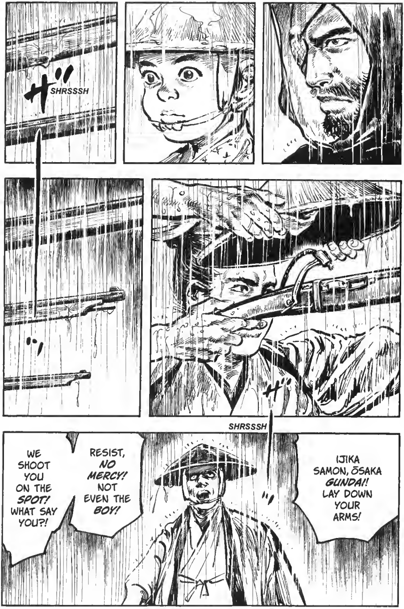
其之六

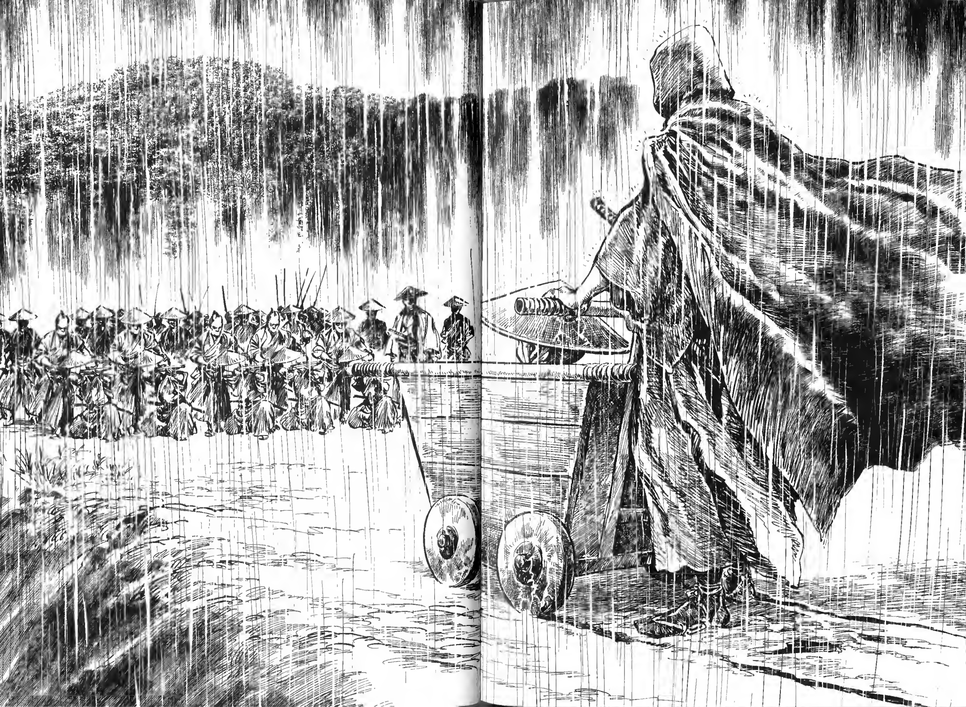
塵芥の如く（八）

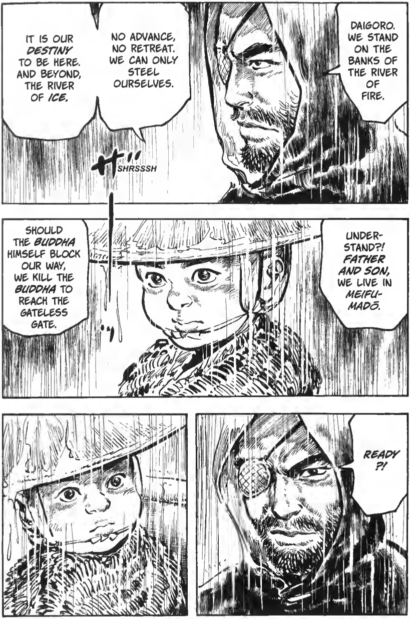
THE SIXTH

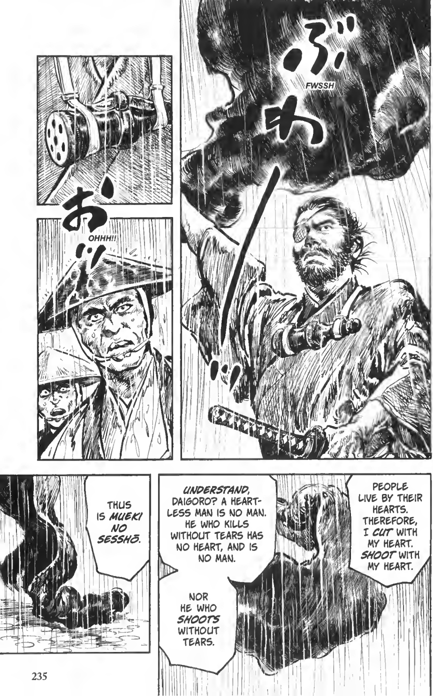
LIKE DUST UNDERFOOT, PART 8

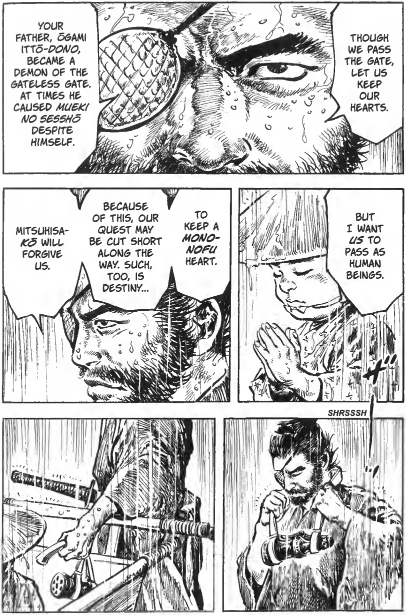

GARA ガ゛ラ
GARA ガ゛ラ
GARA ガ゛ラ
GARA ガ゛ラ

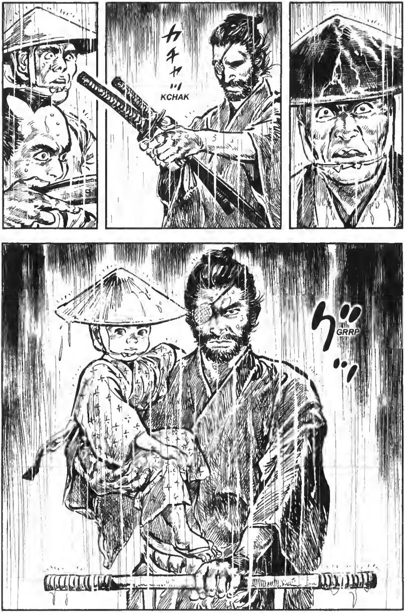

SHRSSSH
SHRSSSH
IJIKA SAMON, ŌSAKA GUNDAI! LAY DOWN YOUR ARMS!
RESIST, NO MERCY! NOT EVEN THE BOY!
WE SHOOT YOU ON THE SPOT! WHAT SAY YOU?!

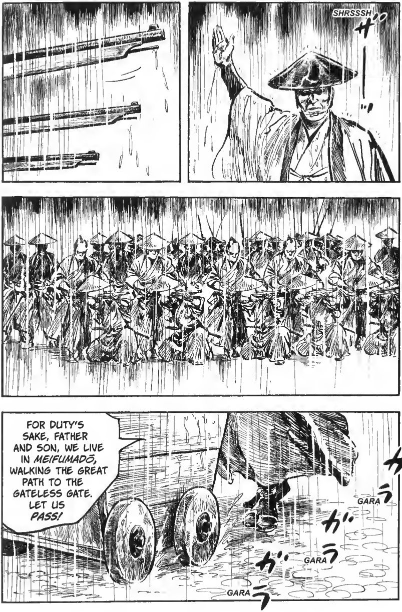


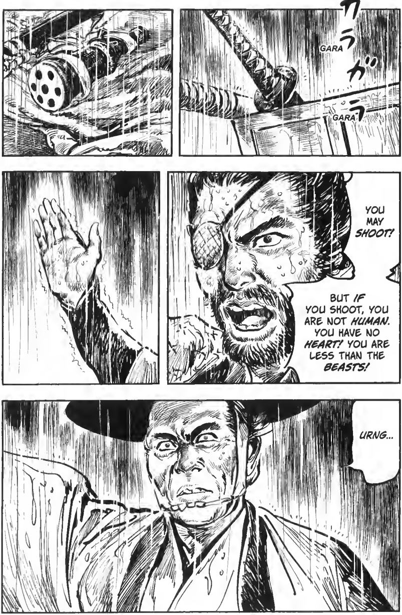

DAIGORO. WE STAND ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER OF FIRE.
NO ADVANCE, NO RETREAT. WE CAN ONLY STEEL OURSELVES.
IT IS OUR *DESTINY* TO BE HERE. AND BEYOND, THE RIVER OF *ICE.*
SHRSSSH
UNDER-STAND?! *FATHER AND SON,* WE LIVE IN *MEIFUMADŌ.*
SHOULD THE *BUDDHA* HIMSELF BLOCK OUR WAY, WE KILL THE *BUDDHA* TO REACH THE GATELESS GATE.
READY?!

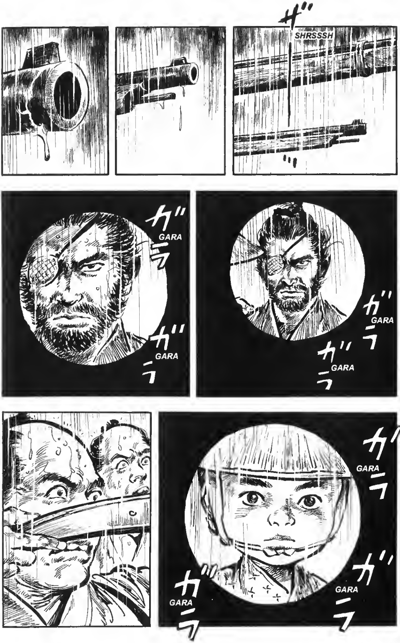

ぶわ
FWSSH
おっ
OHHH!!
PEOPLE LIVE BY THEIR HEARTS. THEREFORE, I *CUT* WITH MY HEART. *SHOOT* WITH MY HEART.
UNDERSTAND, DAIGORO? A HEARTLESS MAN IS NO MAN. HE WHO KILLS WITHOUT TEARS HAS NO HEART, AND IS NO MAN.
NOR HE WHO *SHOOTS* WITHOUT TEARS.
THUS IS *MUEKI NO SESSHŌ*.


THOUGH WE PASS THE GATE, LET US KEEP OUR HEARTS.
YOUR FATHER, ŌGAMI ITTŌ-*DONO*, BECAME A DEMON OF THE GATELESS GATE. AT TIMES HE CAUSED *MUEKI NO SESSHŌ* DESPITE HIMSELF.
BUT I WANT *US* TO PASS AS HUMAN BEINGS.
TO KEEP A *MONONOFU* HEART.
BECAUSE OF THIS, OUR QUEST MAY BE CUT SHORT ALONG THE WAY. SUCH, TOO, IS DESTINY...
MITSUHISA-*KŌ* WILL FORGIVE US.
SHRSSSH


カチャッ
KCHAK
グッ
GRRP


SHRSSSH
ザ
FOR DUTY'S SAKE, FATHER AND SON, WE LIVE IN *MEIFUMADŌ*, WALKING THE GREAT PATH TO THE GATELESS GATE. LET US *PASS!*
ガ
GARA
ラ
ガ
GARA
ラ
ガ
GARA
ラ


ガラ
GARA
ガラ
GARA
YOU MAY *SHOOT!*
BUT *IF* YOU SHOOT, YOU ARE NOT *HUMAN.* YOU HAVE NO *HEART!* YOU ARE LESS THAN THE *BEASTS!*
URNG...


ザ
SHRSSSH
ガラ
GARA
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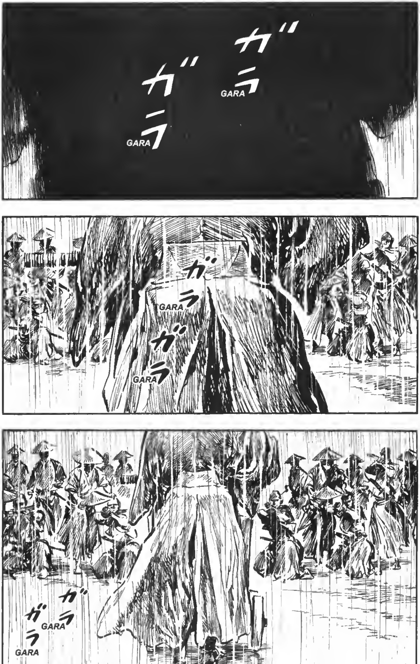
GARA


ガラ
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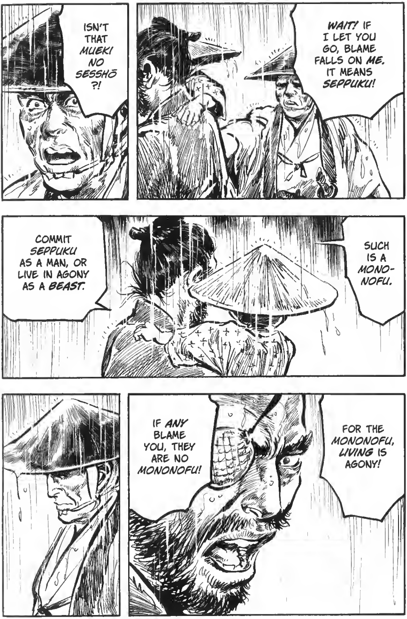
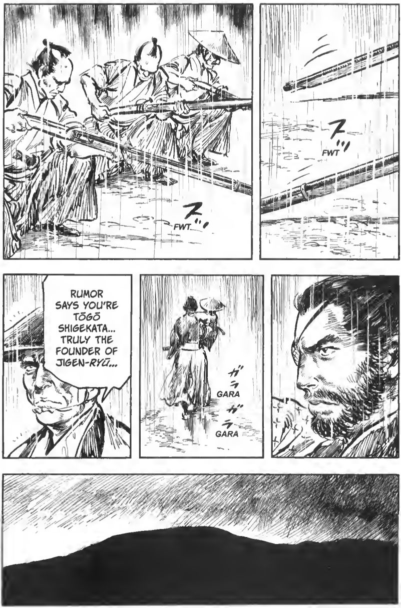
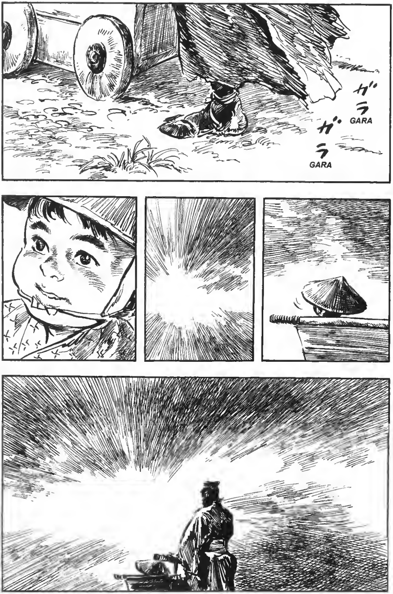
GARA


ISN'T THAT *MUEKI NO SESSHŌ*?!
WAIT! IF I LET YOU GO, BLAME FALLS ON *ME.* IT MEANS *SEPPUKU!*
COMMIT *SEPPUKU* AS A MAN, OR LIVE IN AGONY AS A *BEAST.*
SUCH IS A *MONONOFU.*
IF *ANY* BLAME YOU, THEY ARE NO *MONONOFU!*
FOR THE *MONONOFU, LIVING* IS AGONY!


ズッ FWT
ズッ FWT
RUMOR SAYS YOU'RE TŌGŌ SHIGEKATA... TRULY THE FOUNDER OF JIGEN-*RYŪ*...
ガラ GARA
ガラ GARA


ガラ GARA
ガラ GARA

NEW LONE WOLF AND CUB VOLUME FOUR. THE END.

FOOTNOTES

page 17: This is the same priest encountered in *New Lone Wolf and Cub* Volume 2, the high priest of the Banshōzan Tenneiji temple. According to some reference works, the historical Tōgō Shigekata spent time at Tenneiji when he visited Kyoto during a *musha-shūgyō* warrior pilgrimage that resulted in his establishing Jigen-*ryū* when he returned to Satsuma.

page 18: The *kiai* battle cry of the Jigen-*ryū* sword school, founded by the historical Tōgō Shigekata (also called Tōgō Chūi). Jigen-*ryū* calls for defeating your enemy with an unblockable first stroke.

page 28: Traditional comic repartee and dance by traveling performers. It originated in Mikawa (today's Aichi Prefecture), the heartland of the Tokugawa clan. Because performers traveled widely, the Tokugawa used Mikawa Mansai troupes as spies.

page 29: Literally, "Land of Ezo." In the Edo period, Ezochi referred to today's northern island of Hokkaido and other smaller islands where the early indigenous inhabitants of northern Japan, known today as the Ainu, were found.

page 65: Dejima, a Dutch trading post on an artificial island in Nagasaki harbor, was Japan's only official door to the West under the Tokugawas' "closed country" policy.

page 89: Takenouchi Hankan-*ryū* is an actual martial-arts school, a subbranch of Takenouchi-*ryū jujutsu* unarmed combat. Takenouchi-*ryū* is often credited with being the first form of *jujutsu*, but in its earliest incarnation it was a method of fighting without the traditional samurai combination of long and short sword. It was a medley of unconventional weapons and unarmed combat techniques.

page 118: Sound effect is the shrill cry of the Japanese cicada, which can be thunderous when a whole forest of cicadas starts up. A classic Japanese sound of summer.

page 180: The Yagyū-*ryū* and Ono-*ryū* sword schools were considered the strongest in Japan.

GLOSSARY

Basara Taishō Vajra, one of the Twelve Guardian Generals. Helps bring human aspirations to pass.

bodaiji An ancestral temple.

bōsatsu A bodhisattva. A saintly personage who has chosen not to become a Buddha, but to remain on earth to alleviate human suffering.

Chōshū Chōshū *han*. Like Satsuma, one of the powerful southwestern domains. Today's Yamaguchi Prefecture.

Ebisu The god of wealth and commerce; one of the Seven Deities of Good Fortune, popular folk-religion figures.

Egeresu An early Japanese pronunciation of "England."

Etorofu The old Japanese name for today's Sakhalin.

go-rōjū The inner circle of councilors directly advising the *shōgun*. The *rōjū* were the ultimate advisory body to the Tokugawa shogunate's national government. (*Go* is an honorific prefix, a marker of respect.)

gundai A district deputy. The *gundai* was the chief administrator for larger territories owned directly by the shogunate rather than by a local *han*.

han A feudal domain.

heijōshin A state of perfect and unshakable calm. Used in both Zen Buddhism and Japanese martial arts.

hōjutsu The art of gunnery. *Hōjutsu* was considered one of the essential martial arts. *Hōjutsuka* like the character Sakamoto developed both weapons and tactics and were highly prized.

Jigen-ryū A traditional school of Japanese martial arts founded in the sixteenth century by the historical Tōgō Shigekata in Satsuma Province. Jigen-*ryū* focuses mainly on swordsmanship and is known for its emphasis on the first strike.

Jūni Shinshō The Twelve Guardian Generals, part of the pantheon of esoteric Buddhism in Japan. Like the *niō*, these deities—of whom Basara Taishō is one—come originally from non-Buddhist traditions.

katsu "Wake up!" The classic shout of the Zen master to snap a laggard student into a greater state of awareness.

kibai kire Satsuma dialect: "Don't give up!"

kogusoku A specialized form of combat using short swords, special weapons, and hand-to-hand techniques.

koku A bale of rice. The traditional measure of a *han*'s wealth, agricultural land, and productivity.

Kubō-sama Alternative term for the *shōgun*. *Kubō* emphasized his role as head of state rather than of the Tokugawa clans.

kunoichi A female ninja.

TO PAGE 247

FROM PAGE 246

kuwabara, kuwabara A charm to ward off ill fortune, analogous to "knock on wood." *Kuwabara* literally means "mulberry field," and the expression may be related to a Chinese legend that mulberry trees are not struck by lightning.

meifumadō The Buddhist hell. The way of demons and damnation.

Mihotoke The Buddha.

mononufu A warrior.

mu Nothingness. A crucial concept in Zen Buddhism and a goal in the martial arts. Clearing the mind of all extraneous thoughts and connections, to exist wholly in the moment, freed of all attachment to life and the world around you.

mueki no sesshō Meaningless or wanton killing, forbidden by Buddhist scriptures.

mumon no seki The Gateless Gate. A Buddhist koan puzzle for how one achieves enlightenment. You must pass through the gate that has no gate.

namu A contraction of *namu amida butsu*, a Buddhist incantation invoking Buddha's mercy, sometimes translated as "take refuge in the Buddha." Used similarly to "rest in peace."

nanmaida A quick evocation of the Buddha, similar to "Heaven help us!"

niō Kongō Rikishi, the Benevolent Kings. The two guardian gods at the entrance to Buddhist temples in Japan.

obon The season of the Bon festival in mid-July. A Buddhist observance of the dead, who are said to walk among the living during this time.

ohan Satsuma dialect: you, your.

oi Satsuma dialect: I, me, my.

o-kami My lord, sir. Used for one socially higher than the speaker.

Oroshiya Russia.

ōtono Satsuma dialect: lord of the *han*. *Tono* or *tono-sama* in Edo Japanese.

ri An Edo-period unit of measurement. Approximately four kilometers.

ryō A gold coin. One *ryō* was worth 100,000 yen in modern Japanese currency.

ryū Often translated as "school." The many variations of swordsmanship and other martial arts were passed down from generation to generation to the offspring of the originator of a technique or set of techniques, and to any *deishi* students that sought to learn from the master.

sahai A commander or lieutenant under a supreme commander.

-sama Honorific suffix; a marker of respect used for superiors.

Satsuma An Edo-period domain including the modern-day provinces of Satsuma, Ōsumi, and Hyūga of Kagoshima and Miyazaki Prefectures on the island of Kyūshū.

Satsuma-bune The regularly scheduled ship between Satsuma *han* on the southern island of Kyūshū and Osaka on the main island of Honshu.

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seisei-ken The "action in stillness" sword stroke. One of the inner techniques of Jigen-*ryū*.

Seki-no-magoroku Generic name for swords made by the great swordsmith Seki-no-magoroku in the late Muromachi period (1336–1573).

seppuku The right to kill oneself with honor to atone for failure, or to follow one's master into death. Only the samurai class was allowed this glorious but excruciating death. The abdomen was cut horizontally, followed by an upward cut to spill out the intestines. When possible, a *kaishakunin* performed a beheading after the cut was made to shorten the agony.

shinobi Ninja.

shishōgan The eyes of life and death. The eyes of a master swordsman who has survived countless battles and achieved *muga*, freedom from the self.

shōgun One of Japan's military governors from the twelfth to nineteenth centuries.

shogunate The government, rule, or office of the *shōgun*.

tansakunin A term for ninja, emphasizing their role as spies.

teppō-tai Musket troops. Portuguese traders introduced matchlock harquebuses (*teppō*) to Japan in 1543. They were quickly adopted and improved and became an important part of *han* and shogunate arsenals.

ue-sama Literally, "one who is above." Used for the Tokugawa *shōgun* at this time in Japanese history.

ushikudonki Spies. Two separate spy apparatuses reported to the *rōjū* senior councilors and to the *wakadoshiyori* junior councilors. The Hattori clan historically reported to the *rōjū*. The semifictional *ushikudonki* here report to junior councilors.

wazzē Satsuma dialect: incredible, amazing, super.

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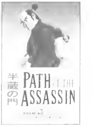

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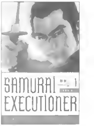

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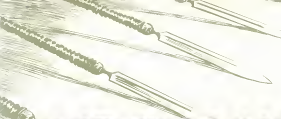

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